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Critics say “diversity” fails to address racism

By JEANNE LEE
For The News-Letter

A panel of students, faculty and administrators gathered on Thursday, Feb. 16 to discuss the University’s updated Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion, which was released last November.

While student and faculty panelists criticized the document for not doing more to directly address racial inequality, the University defended its efforts, but admitted that its work is incomplete.

Shani Mott, a lecturer in the Center for Africana Studies and the panel’s moderator, opened the event by outlining the historical context of the Roadmap. She referred back to the Black Student Union’s (BSU) protest and the subsequent Black Student Forum in the fall of 2015, where the BSU listed a series of demands to the University.

These demands included cultural competency classes, an increase in the number of full-time black faculty members, programs focused on the welcoming and retention of black students and that

the University cease to use black bodies to promote its public image.

Excerpts from the Roadmap were also pasted on large posters on the walls of the event room. Prior to the panelists speaking, audience members were given markers and invited to write their thoughts about the Roadmap on the posters. Many of these comments were critical of the Roadmap’s wording and questioned the intentions behind some of the listed programs.

Panelist and retired faculty member of the Center for Africana Studies Floyd Hayes specifically criticized the use of the term “diversity,” arguing that it diverts attention from the racism experienced by black students, faculty and workers at Hopkins.

“My association with ‘diversity’ is that it is a source of celebration. We all are diverse,” Hayes said. “I don’t think that term deals with racial power. It does not deal with anti-black racism or white supremacy, and so I think that the term is an evasion.”

SEE ROADMAP, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU

Students and faculty criticized the Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion.



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Díaz argued that Trump’s wall-building rhetoric reflects xenophobia and white supremacy, neither of which are new to the United States.

Junot Díaz assesses culture of fear in the U.S.

By KATHERINE LOGAN
Staff Writer

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and 2012 MacArthur Fellow Junot Díaz outlined how the current political climate has influenced his creative process at the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS).

His talk, which was titled “The Inhuman Condition,” took place on Wednesday in Shriver Hall and focused on the topics of fear, wall-building and the dehumanization of immigrants and other minority groups.

Díaz began by explaining the creative process behind his critically acclaimed novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. He explained that he usually structures his stories around the political and social questions that interest him. In his writing, Díaz has explored social activism and the long-term effects of slavery.

“How do people who come out of the plantation, how do people of African descent who spent the first 400 years of their existence having no access to love and intimacy... find their way to finding love?” he asked.

From this point, Díaz argued that artists and politicians in the United States, especially President Donald Trump, draw inspiration from similar socioeconomic and political power structures.

“I’m writing this book years ago, and then Trump pops up and behaves exactly the way that you would expect any kind of monstrous white supremacist leader in America would,” Díaz said. “In many ways, these oppressive leaders — and writers — are tapping into the same disavowed, erased, unacknowledged systems and oppressions.”

However, Díaz emphasized that the crucial difference between artists

and right-wing politicians like Trump is how they draw power from these systems.

“[Artists] explore them on a road to liberation, but dictatorial leaders explore them as ways to dominate,” he said. “We end up with our hands in the same water but for very different reasons.”

Díaz introduced his theory of the “The Great Fear,” which encompasses the culture of fear that

he believes is permeating American life, particularly among younger generations. He explained how over the course of his life, he has watched a spreading fear of strangers influence people’s interactions with one another.

“Post-sixties and seventies you began to get this saturation of fear culture that in many ways helped to atomize people, to separate people,” he said.

SEE DÍAZ, PAGE A4

Baltimoreans rally for \$15 minimum wage

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

Fight for \$15 (FF\$15) Baltimore, a coalition advocating for the city’s minimum wage to be raised from \$8.75 to \$15 per hour by 2022, held a rally in New Waverly United Methodist Church.

The rally on Thursday, Feb. 16 was held ahead of a March 1 City Council vote which will decide the issue.

Community members, including workers, small business owners, activists and members of City Council promoted the bill to a crowd of over 100 people, 10 of which were Hopkins students.

FF\$15 Campaign Chair Ricarra Jones explained the purpose of the rally.

“We wanted to just get people energized, let them know that this campaign is on, that the fight is on. And just let them hear workers’ stories, hear why this issue is important, get them engaged and have them contacting their City Council reps. and the mayor [Catherine Pugh],” Jones said.

A resident of Baltimore for many years, Jones was inspired to co-found FF\$15 after witnessing

first-hand the struggles her fellow residents endured trying to make ends meet.

“It’s important to me because of the many conversations I’ve had with people [who] are constantly trying to figure out how to stretch their paychecks from week to week and from day to day and who will, at the end of the week, never have enough money left over,” she said.

Last year, FF\$15 worked with City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke,

whose district includes the Homewood Campus, to introduce a bill to raise the minimum wage, but it fell one vote short of passing. The bill was reintroduced by Clarke earlier this month and will be voted on next week.

Clarke is optimistic about the chances of the bill being passed this time around.

“We will win because justice demands it,” she said. “We will bring justice to its beginning here in Baltimore. We can afford it, and we can’t afford not to pass this legislation if we ever want to bring all the people of our city together as one

SEE RALLY, PAGE A4

Camp Kesem supports families fighting cancer

By CLAIRE FOX
Senior Staff Writer

Since its founding in 2011, the Hopkins chapter of Camp Kesem has supported children in Maryland whose family members have been affected by cancer by hosting a week-long summer camp.

Founded at Stanford University in 2000 and now expanded to 80 chapters nationwide, student leaders at Hopkins are holding the sixth annual free overnight camp at Camp St. Charles in Newburg, Maryland this August.

The Hopkins chapter serves just under 70 campers per year with a staff of about 30 volunteer counselors.

In her second year of working with Camp Kesem, sophomore Farrah Lin described the Camp’s central goal as one of providing support for these children.

“The nature of Kesem is a warm and encouraging environment, and it’s a place where the kids can feel comfortable expressing their feelings about sensitive topics, feel connected to other children their age going

through a similar thing and feel more confident about handling challenges,” she said.

Serving as a volunteer coordinator this year, Lin is responsible for the recruitment and training of camp counselors.

“Being a counselor at an overnight camp requires a lot of interaction with the campers, and the campers look up to the counselors as peers and role models,” Lin said. “There are all kinds of ways someone can be good with kids, and we just look for someone who would add to the welcom-

ing environment and support network for our Kesem campers.”

Junior Erica Ma, director of the Hopkins chapter, echoed Lin’s sentiment about providing a stress-free and fun support environment for campers. She described how the camp is the only nonprofit organization to provide this sort of support.

“We are the only Camp Kesem chapter between Pennsylvania and Washington D.C., so our service area runs all the way to Virginia sometimes,” Ma said.

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Battle of the ‘00s stars

Who is better – Lindsay Lohan or Hilary Duff? Kyra Lesser takes on this tough question in this week’s KIKI LEAKS.

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Legacy of internment camps

Morgan Ome reflects on the dangerous precedent that the Japanese internment camps set.

OPINIONS, PAGE A11

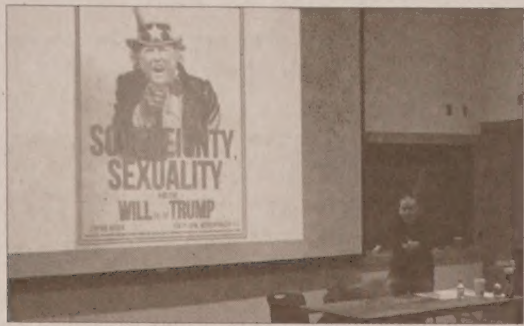
Life with a hidden disability

Katherine Logan offers a glimpse of what it’s like to have epilepsy as a Hopkins student.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Prof. talks structural causes of Trump's rise



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM

Weber analyzed social factors that led to Trump winning the election.

By SARAH Y. KIM
Staff Writer

Cynthia Weber, international relations professor at the University of Sussex, gave a talk titled "Sovereignty, Sexuality and the Will of Trump" on Tuesday evening in Mergenthaler Hall.

Weber explained that while Trump has already been inaugurated, it is important to evaluate his campaigning strategies, especially since he still holds speeches strikingly similar to his rallies during the campaign.

She went on to read a piece by Damien Love that was published by Scotland's *Sunday Herald* and went viral in January 2017. The piece, a brief preview for Trump's inauguration, was written in the structure of a preview for an upcoming episode of Rod Serling's science fiction television series *The Twilight Zone*.

"The story begins in a nightmarish version of 2017 in which huge sections of the U.S. electorate have somehow been duped into voting to make Donald Trump president," Love wrote.

Weber agrees with Love that Americans are living through a sort of twilight zone, but she nevertheless felt that there were reasons to dispute his depiction.

She outlined three principal flaws with Love's account. The first being that it obscured the historical conditions that made a Trump presidency possible.

"He presents the Trump moment as though it were without history and without context, as a horrible surprise that is just now in hold," Weber said. "Love misses how Trump's campaign and presidency are part and parcel of earlier historical experiments."

Such experiments, Weber continued, included "white, Western heteropatriarchal authoritarian leadership" and neoliberalism. She said that Love also failed to acknowledge Trump's own history of discrimination.

His racism, she elaborated, does not date back to Trump accusing former President Barack Obama of not being born in the U.S. but to his belief that the "Central Park 5," a group of five black and Latino teenagers who were wrongfully convicted for raping a 28-year-old banker in 1989, were guilty.

"Trump continues to be a serial liar, who incessantly repeats lies big and small," she said. "He does this to the point where empirical facts and judicial judgments that contradict his lies seem to be not only incorrect, but dishonest to the point of conspiratorial."

Two other major flaws with Love's depiction, Weber said, were his failure to outline the specific form Trump's "simulated experiment" takes. According to Weber, one thing that Trump does simulate is sovereignty.

"Sovereignty is a concept, a logic and a performative concept," she said. "It functions in many registers, often at the same time. Simulating sovereignty is nothing new. It's been employed by many leaders."

She stated that Trump's campaign used three interrelated ideas at the heart of America's conception of sovereignty: patriotism, the melting pot myth and the American Dream. According to Weber, Trump's campaign drew from a long U.S. tradition of fear-based patriotism.

Weber listed the forms of discrimination upon which his campaign relied, including racism, ableism and homophobia.

"As [the campaign] did so, it cultivated anger about a loss of white privilege, and particularly white male privilege and it refused to disavow white supremacists like the KKK who endorsed the campaign," she said.

She stated that Trump relied extensively on his Twitter feed and campaign rallies to encourage such fears and concerns about these groups.

"By propagating this particular form of fear based patriotism, the

Trump campaign stripped post 9/11 American patriotism of any pretense that it valued American diversity," she said. "And in so doing, the Trump campaign, as many had done before, rewrote the U.S. melting pot."

She then described the idea that Americans value all citizens equally as a myth, saying that the Trump campaign drew on this fact to augment its own power. In addition to encouraging fear of certain groups, she said, Trump encouraged anger, resentment and violence towards them.

With regards to how the American Dream was used to strengthen Trump's campaign, Weber pointed to the way Trump represented himself as the embodiment of the American Dream.

"A lot of people forget that the American Dream is a sovereign dream," she said. "It tells you as citizens you can be sovereign in your own destinies, your individualistic wealth creed, which is as good for them as individuals, as it is good for the collective U.S. sovereign states capitalist project."

She pointed out how Trump also used the American Dream as a way to increase resentment against minority groups.

"Trump seemed to appeal to particularly white Christian male working class voters by acknowledging their failure to achieve or retain their American dream, and by reassuring them that their failures were the fault of the domestic and foreign enemies who had stolen

them," she said.

Weber stressed, however, that it was important not to categorize all Trump supporters as bigots.

"It's always important to pause here and say this doesn't mean that every Trump voter consciously identified with the Trump campaign's bigoted showmanship structure of understanding social relations and power that their votes legitimated," she said.

Weber deliberated on the uncertainty under Trump's presidency, especially because, she argued, Trump's own beliefs are not fully set in stone.

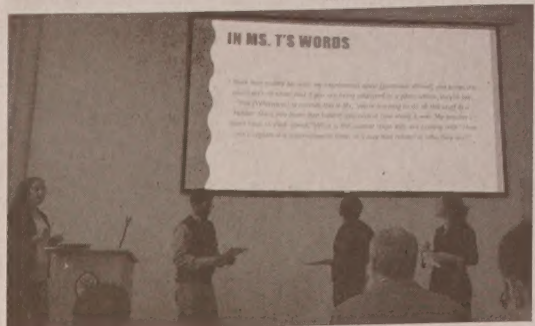
Students like freshman Serwah Afranie were intrigued by this notion.

"I found it interesting when she mentioned that Trump does not know what he thinks," Afranie said. "It made me question if Trump was really the mastermind behind all the policies he is advocating. Does he really know what he's doing? Is he really in charge of the presidency? Or is he merely a puppet?"

Freshmen Abigail Johnson thought that Weber did well to hit on some of the pressing problems facing the progressive movement during Trump's presidency.

"I found Weber's discussion on the 'iterations' of the Trump machine particularly refreshing," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Weber's point is that finding weak points in the machine, rather than finding fault in the machine's iterations, is what is most effective against Trump and his

School of Ed. seminar dissects white privilege



COURTESY OF SIRI TUMMALA

Berchini offered advice to educators on how to teach about racism.

By SIRI TUMMALA
Staff Writer

As part of the Urban Health series on understanding racism and white privilege, the Johns Hopkins School of Education held a seminar open to the general public on Wednesday, Feb. 22 led by Christina Berchini.

An assistant English professor at the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, Berchini shared her research and observations about racism and white privilege in an academic environment.

Berchini suggested "reader's theater," an exercise where individuals act out scripts of possible situations, as a way to train teachers to facilitate conversations about race in the classroom.

"What we do know from studies that have been conducted with undergraduates, but also professionals in other fields like nursing and business, is that reader's theater encourages deep exploration of text and also provides an opportunity for critical reflection," she said.

Berchini selected people to come to the front and asked them to perform short scenes centered on classroom experiences of teachers who dealt with race and privilege. She then analyzed these scenes in a discussion format by taking into consideration the audience's opinions.

"This is actually reminiscent of the research in teacher education when the topic is about white privilege, whiteness and trying to get white pre-service teachers to deconstruct their privilege," she said. "The research has said that there is a defensiveness, a hopelessness and a denial, which are the same sorts of things that seem to be going on here."

After her 45 minute presentation, Professor Berchini opened up the floor to questions from the audience.

An audience member who participated in the short skit commented on culturalism from a counseling perspective.

"What really has to become a part of who we are is going out and actually seeing social injustices and being willing to advocate," he said. "A lot of people need to get educated on the concept of white privilege and how this is benefiting some and keeping others at the bottom."

Another audience member questioned how the teacher in the skit handled himself in facilitating the discussion with his students, and Berchini responded that educators all face challenges.

"The teacher can be said to be screwing up at certain points here. I would argue that anyone of us wouldn't quite know what to do in the moment. So mistakes are going to be made, and there are going to be lost moments," Berchini said.

Cynphany Brown, a 2015 graduate of the University of Maryland felt that the seminar could have explored some issues to a fuller extent.

"I think it distracted and maybe added some points here or there, but it didn't get as deep as I thought it would get," she said. "I say distracted because it had a lot of scientific terms and big words to basically say that some white people who are first year teachers teach off of experience and knowledge."

She also described her motivation for coming to the lecture.

"I saw that [the lecture] was a white woman talking about white privilege, so I wanted to hear her perspectives," Brown said. "I am the type of person who is as open-minded as I try to be, and since she has two more lectures that continue this series, I am going to go and see what more there is to say to see if anything can be added, changed or challenged to my current way of thinking."

SGA votes to support fossil fuel divestment

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a fossil fuel divestment resolution, an entrepreneurship funding bill, a bylaws amendment for student groups, and the FIJI Islander funding bill at its weekly meeting in Charles Commons on Tuesday.

Sophomore Class Senator AJ Tsang sponsored a bill that would urge the University to follow the student group Refuel Our Future's formal proposal to divest from fossil

fuel companies. The bill passed by a vote of 21 to zero with no abstentions.

In the bill, the SGA encourages the board of trustees and the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) to act on Refuel Our Future's recommendations outlined in the divestment proposal. The bill also urges the University to follow through on its plans to hold a public forum on divestment as mentioned in the December meeting minutes, in accordance with Refuel Our Future's proposal.

Some SGA members suggested that they amend the bill to push for renewable energy investment instead of fossil fuel divestment.

"I am voting no because I don't like the divestment idea. I like investment in renewable energy," Junior Class President Sarah Zappone said. "I think it's naive to think that, as terrible and harmful fossil fuels are on our environment, that it would be nothing like how we live right now without them. I think

that it's much more impactful to make a statement of investing, not divesting."

Senior Class President Syed Hossain agreed.

"I'm also going to vote no. Like [Zappone], I believe in

investment. And also, you guys can judge me for this, but the U.S. is entering a phase of expansion and growth, and the commodities industry is directly impacted by this. So if the school's investing, that'd be good returns for the school," he said.

Zappone's motion to change divestment from fossil fuels to investment in renewable energy failed.

Junior Class Senator Pepe Muniz emphasized that the SGA should stand with the ongoing divestment campaign.

"I think the point of this resolution is to support the divestment proposal," Muniz said. "I think it'd

be a little inappropriate for us to start changing their recommendations in that proposal because that's something that's already been made. So it's either support that or don't."

Freshman Class President Anthony Boutros strongly urged SGA to pass the resolution.

"We should use our force as a body, in all its power, to challenge our University to follow its principles," Boutros said.

The bill to provide funding to the Three-Day Startup Entrepreneurship Program, which aims to provide funding for a three-day entrepreneurship and innovation event, also passed unanimously. This initiative was part of Executive Vice President Anna Du's mission to increase the opportunities for undergraduate entrepreneurship and innovation on campus.

Muniz also proposed a bylaws amendment for student groups that would institute a yearly review of every student group's operations to determine each group's annual funding from the SGA's Student Activities Committee (SAC). The amendment also passed unanimously.

Senior Class Senator Ope Olukorede disagreed with the aims of the amendment.

"So now you're saying that groups that have already been approved are going to come back and you're going to disapprove them? I don't really think that's fair," she said.

Muniz countered that because SGA provides

student groups' funding.

"It's not crazy to say that once a year we're going to check up on what you're doing with that money," he said.

Senior Class Senator Adelaide Morphett sponsored the FIJI Islander funding bill, which passed by a unanimous vote. The bill states that the SGA would fund \$1,000 to hire ten security guards for the annual FIJI Islander during homecoming, with all proceeds going towards ovarian cancer research.

Muniz objected to the bill. He stated that since attendees must be above the legal drinking age, the event excluded a large portion of the student body.

"If we're giving \$1,000 to an event, I don't think it's unreasonable to expect that all 5,000 students could go," Muniz said. "I stand by how uncomfortable it makes me to fund an event that two-thirds of the people in the room can't attend."

Senior Class Senator Jonathan Brown disagreed because he felt that it was logical for SGA to pay for security so that the event will be well monitored even with the alcohol.

"I think that it's still a great event that's going towards a great cause," he said.

Next week, the SGA plans to discuss a student disabilities bill sponsored by Boutros and an initiative to increase school spirit that is spearheaded by Freshman Class Senator Rushabh Doshi.

NEWS & FEATURES

Carey Business School is accredited

By SAM FOSSUM
News & Features Editor

The Carey Business School, founded at Hopkins in 2007, officially received accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The AACSB is widely recognized as the highest accreditation a business program can earn.

The multi-year process included self evaluations and external reviews by AACSB evaluators of the school's mission, faculty and curriculum.

According to the AACSB website, less than five percent of the world's business programs have received AACSB accreditation. The School has also been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Kevin Frick, the vice dean for education at the Carey Business School, elaborated on the process the School underwent to earn its accreditation.

"The Carey Business School underwent a comprehensive review of the school's mission, faculty, curriculum and strategic plans to show that it meets the AACSB standards and guidelines," he wrote.

Frick explained how getting accreditation as a business school is often intensive and long-drawn.

"This process takes several years to complete. The process included self-evaluation and extensive review from AACSB peer-evaluators," he wrote. "The AACSB is the world's leading authority on quality assurance for business education. Accreditation by the AACSB recognizes that the Carey Business School meets rigorous standards for business education."

The Carey Business School provides full-time and part-time business education programs at both its Baltimore and Washington, D.C. locations, as well as online. It offers master's programs in areas such as finance, marketing, real estate and information systems.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Sunil Kumar elaborated on the importance of this achievement in an interview with *The Hub*.

"The Carey Business School faculty, staff, students and alumni are an integral part of Johns Hopkins University, who deliver on our core mission to bring knowledge to the world," Kumar said. "I commend the entire Carey community for achieving this important milestone."

The School has 87 full-time faculty supporting 2,000 part-time and full-time students who represent over 60 countries.

After receiving a \$50 million donation from businessman William Polk Carey, the University's trustees voted in 2006 to establish a new business school at Hopkins. The University also raised \$50 million to help launch the new school.

Homewood welcomes new pre-professional advisor



COURTESY OF KELLI JOHNSON
Kelli Johnson is the new pre-professional advisor.

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Kelli Johnson was named the new director of pre-professional advising at Hopkins in late January, taking over from outgoing director David Verrier, who is retiring. Johnson has spent the last four years as the assistant dean and director for pre-professional advising at New York University (NYU).

In an interview with *The News-Letter*, Johnson explained how she hopes to best serve undergraduates in her new role.

"I've had experience as a career counselor, as an academic advisor and as a pre-professional advisor," Johnson said. "Having exposure to all of those three things gives me a unique perspective. I'll always be evaluating the services that we offer to make sure that students are being served in the best way that we can possibly serve them."

Johnson, who has a background in law, said she was initially focused on pre-law advising at NYU but gained experience with pre-health advising after transitioning to work with undergraduates.

"I only spent a year

working solely on the pre-law program at NYU, and then I was promoted to oversee the whole office," she said. "So I was working with pre-health and pre-law students. I feel very

versed in pre-health advising. I get really excited about helping students set goals and reach them."

In her first weeks on campus, Johnson said she has mostly been observing the pre-professional advising office.

"I'm hoping to bring a fresh eye to pre-professional advising," she said. "I'm still getting up to speed and I want to make sure that I have a real understanding of what's going on here, why we do things the way that we do."

Sophomore Ruchita Kothari was part of a student panel that interviewed the candidates for the position and reflected on some of her first impressions of Johnson.

"I remember being really surprised at first because she's actually pretty young," Kothari said. "She definitely had a lot of experience. She knew what she was doing and she seemed like she had a lot of good ideas to reach out to freshmen and sophomores."

Johnson is taking over the position from Verrier who many students regarded highly. Kothari said that transitioning students from Johnson to Verrier was only a small

concern for her.

"Ms. Johnson coming from more of a law background is a little bit concerning, but she has worked with a lot of students in pre-med as well," she said. "So I don't think that's as much of an issue."

Junior Clarissa Martin agreed with Kothari that Johnson's previous experience with pre-med students at NYU makes her qualified for the position.

"I think it's preferable that she have more experience with applying to med school, because that's what most of the applicants who utilize the pre-professional center do," Martin said. "But she's already been working with pre-med students applying to med school."

Both Martin and Kothari agreed that it was good to see Verrier helping Johnson with the transition. Sophomore Ramya Prabhakar offered a slightly different perspective as a pre-law student.

"I don't think that her

legal background hinders her ability to lead the department as a whole," Prabhakar wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In fact, I think it's better that she doesn't come from a medical background. There are ample resources for pre-med students but not a whole lot for other pre-professional advising programs."

Johnson said that she hoped to expand the pre-professional advising de-

partment to be more all-encompassing so that all students feel supported by pre-professional advising.

"One of the things that was important to me in my past experience was to put more of a focus on being a pre-health advising office rather than a pre-med advising office," she said. "Just exposing students to careers in health-care that aren't specifically in the clinical practice of medicine. Here, there is a very strong focus on medicine. There's certainly nothing wrong with that, but I do want to make sure the students are informed about other career opportunities."

Johnson said she would also like to expand the services offered to pre-law students. However, she does not expect to make any immediate or dramatic changes.

Some students have expressed discontent with changes in the pre-professional advising policy that limits underclassmen

access for advisor appointments, which some feel unfairly prioritizes juniors and seniors.

"I think that's wrong," Martin said. "The pre-professional office is not just important for applying to medical school."

I used it to find out what my schedule should be for my sophomore year when I was a freshman. If I had never met with Dr. Verrier, I probably wouldn't still be a neuroscience major, and

because I followed his advice, I did really well last year."

Kothari, on the other hand, sympathized with the office and said that it wasn't a huge change.

"As far as I know, freshman and sophomores do meet with the pre-med advisors but not as often," she said. "Dr. Verrier only met with upperclassmen who were really going through the process, because they are pretty overwhelmed with the amount of students."

Agreeing with Kothari that the office lacked resources, Prabhakar wrote that this specifically affected students who were not pre-med. She indicated that she had made an appointment with Johnson and met with her to talk about a summer internship, despite being a sophomore.

"She told me she had a legal background, which was particularly helpful because she was able to give me some solid advice," Prabhakar wrote. "She seemed to know what she was talking about and had a great balance of not telling me exactly what to do but giving me enough information to allow me to make my own decision."

Johnson stressed that the office aims to be accessible for everyone but that they were taking steps to more efficiently provide underclassmen with baseline information to free up more time to meet with juniors and seniors.

"Our goal is always to make sure that we're able to help our students be successful," Johnson said. "All of our students are important to us. We encourage all of our students to make contact with our office early and often."

"Our goal is always to make sure that we're able to help our students be successful."

— KELLI JOHNSON,
DIRECTOR OF
PRE-PROFESSIONAL
ADVISING

8:32 Society explores the crossroads of faith and vocation

By VALERIE CHAVEZ
For *The News-Letter*

The 8:32 Society, which strives to provide a network for Hopkins affiliates to understand their professions in the context of their Christian faith, hosted its inaugural Symposium on Faith, Reason and Vocation last Saturday. Students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered in Levering Hall to discuss the challenges and opportunities that Christians face in different academic disciplines and career fields.

The 8:32 Society is a new organization that is in the process of becoming a University affiliated group. The Symposium was a collaborative effort between the Hopkins Dialectic, the Public Health Christian Fellowship and the Graduate Christian Fellowship.

Junior Karl Johnson is one of the founding members of the 8:32 Society. The name of the group comes from the Bible verse John 8:32, also the University's motto "Veritas vos liberabit," which means the "truth will set you free."

Last year, Johnson also began the *Hopkins Dialectic*, which is a journal that aims to explore how faith intersects with areas of academia. He explained that the inspiration for the 8:32 Society came from similar organizations at other universities and his desire to generate more discourse on campus about the relationship between faith

and scholarship.

"When I came to Hopkins I was really excited to talk about my faith and religion in intellectual terms with people, both people who shared my faith and others that didn't," Johnson said. "It's a fun philosophical tradition, but when I got here, that tradition wasn't as alive as I would have liked."

The group's main objective is to establish connections between Christian students, alumni and faculty across the University's different schools. 8:32 plans to do so by hosting events like the Symposium, establishing an online platform where people can connect and eventually developing a Christian study center on campus.

The symposium opened with an address from keynote speaker Lawrence Principe, a professor in the departments of Chemistry and History of Science and Technology. Principe opened the Symposium by discussing the long-standing tension between science and religion.

He outlined how the 19th century philosopher Auguste Comte first began to distinguish science and religion as being two distinct, separate fields.

"In the 1820s, [Comte] was looking for ways to regroup society in a logical, rational basis and he invented this idea of the three stages of human development," Principe said. "He saw the Enlightenment of the 18th century as

the end of the theological, Napoleon's attempt to reconstitute law and society on a secular basis as philosophical, and he believed his own day, the 1840s, was the dawn of this scientific age where society would be rationally grounded on a new science called sociology. So he implied that theistic religion belonged to a primitive state, and science to a mature state of humanity."

He outlined various texts that have been published over the years on the relationship between science and religion. He said that dichotomy is a construct that is often fictionalized.

For example, Principe described how American chemist John William Draper wrote a widely-circulated book called *History of the Conflict Between Science and Religion*, which he says is not valid because of its xenophobic undertones.

"His law of development guides everything but it's combined here with a specifically anti-Catholic rant that becomes hysterical," Principe said. "His ideas are in part [due to] 19th century American xenophobia about recently arriving immigrants... He declaimed against what he calls the 'insidious agency of immigration' that would lead to a hybrid population, degrading society into, I quote, an 'adulterated, festering mass.'"

Freshman Angela Zhu explained what she liked

about Principe's talk.

"I think it was really interesting how the narratives of the past were formed by people's agendas later on," Zhu said.

After the opening remarks, the Symposium broke off into panels where experts and attendees discussed the role of their faith in their various careers and disciplines. Panel discussions topics included public health, STEM, medicine and the humanities.

Senior Dan Ju shared his thoughts after attending the Symposium. He feels that there is no conflict between Christianity and science but that there are unique challenges to resolve.

"I feel like science and faith or religion run in parallel or, well, maybe not parallel, but they are not overlapping. Most of the issues I think don't overlap," Ju said. "And we have these conflicts between Creation. I'm still

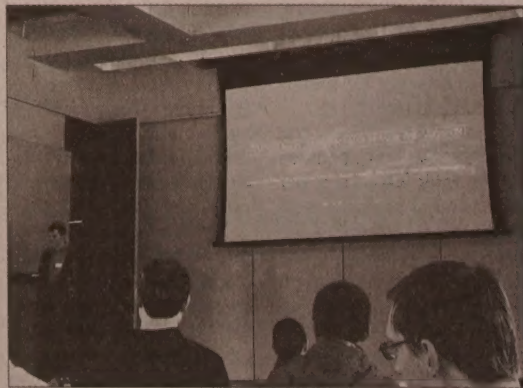
grappling with that. I believe in evolution, that's kind of a fact, but also I very much believe in Christianity."

The goal of the 8:32 Society is to allow for a platform for Christians in the Hopkins community to network and engage in such discussion about the role of faith in their work and education.

Teresa Yeh, a graduate of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and one of the founding members of the 8:32 Society, said she was happy to see a larger turnout than expected at the Symposium.

The group plans to make the Symposium an annual event.

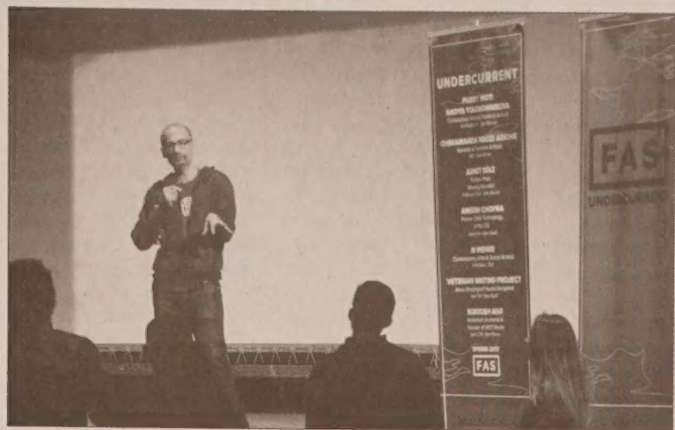
"I'm excited that this is happening, and that so many people have come. It's pretty encouraging to see people engaging and asking good questions and thinking thoughtfully," she said.



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SETO
The 8:32 Society held its first symposium on faith and scholarship.

NEWS & FEATURES

Díaz warns against culture of fear in U.S. Symposium addresses public health in Asia



KUNAL MAITY/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Díaz explained that Trump's rhetoric is based upon creating fear among U.S. citizens.

DÍAZ, FROM A1

According to Díaz, this alarm is heightened by the culture of intense competition ingrained in people starting from a young age. He pointed to the pressure placed on college students to make the 'right decisions' in order to secure a stable future post-graduation living as an example.

"The other thing that we begin to foist on young people growing up is this neoliberal imagery around punishment and scarcity," he said. "And what young person that's here at Johns Hopkins doesn't feel that cruel calculus of this sense that you are living your life on the thinnest edge between happiness and to-

tal destruction?"

Díaz then related the topic of fear to American culture's growing obsession with the need to secure our borders by building literal and metaphorical walls.

"Fear is the central American religion now. One of the great artifacts of this fear is the wall," he said. "Neoliberalism wants every single one of us to become a border guard. It wants everyone to imagine that contact. The unregulated encounter with other people is not only fearful but dangerous."

Based on what he has witnessed while teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Díaz believes that this fear-

inducing rhetoric has also significantly altered the ways students communicate with one another.

"How many of us are by reflex exclusionary? My students are like 'That person is

only half-black; They're not black,' 'She doesn't speak Korean; She's not Korean,' 'They've never been to Malaysia; They're not Malaysian,' 'Your family is X; You can't be Y,'" he said. "My students are far quicker with the machete, to cut people out, than they are to include people."

Díaz explained that this drive to create borders between different people is ingrained within white supremacy.

"Nelson Maldonado-Torres has this idea of 'ego conquiro,' 'the conqueror's logic' — like me and people of color and poor folks and immigrants are not deserving of human treatment

because they are not human at the heart of white supremacy," he said. "If you're a person of color, you're always a probationary human."

Freshman Julia Costacurta was especially drawn to Díaz's discussion of neoliberalism and race in light of how it paralleled the current political debate involving immigration.

"One thing that really stood with me was the whole idea of solidarity and how being afraid of strangers is something we're taught from a very young age," Costacurta said. "I had never thought about that before, and how that becomes a factor when you become an adult especially within the current political structure."

Junior Astha Berry also appreciated the tone of Díaz's talk, particularly the way he addressed the college experience.

"This might even be one of my favorite FAS events of all time. I thought he was very eloquent and down to earth," Berry said. "I was surprised by how much he swore. I thought it made him very relatable, and I found myself wishing that he was my professor multiple times."

Fight for \$15 demands increased wages

RALLY, FROM A1

whole community: self-sufficient, proud and together."

However, Clarke and Jones agree that even if the bill passes, there is still work to be done. The bill currently includes an exemption for workers under the age of 21.

"That's a huge issue, because there are a lot of folks who are 20... and supporting their own families and trying to work their way through college," Jones said. "So we hope that they are no longer exempt this legislation, and we're working really hard to change that."

The rally featured testimonials from many workers in Baltimore struggling to make a living off the city's current minimum wage of \$8.75.

A Hopkins security guard named John criticized the University's treatment of its security staff and explained why he joined 32BJ SEIU, a labor union with chapters across the country.

"I took a stance when I first heard about the union being organized, and I got involved. I'm so glad I did because when I first came to the campus, the officers were treated like they were actual slaves," he said. "I had to go to Washington, D.C. and bargain our contract, and it took almost forever to do that, because I never encountered a wicked bunch of people such as I work for at JHU. They did not want to give us anything, but I fought and I continue to fight to this day. \$15 means you have to fight."

Junior Jessa Wais, one of three student speakers at the rally, discussed her involvement in working to raise the minimum wage on campus through the recently formed Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC), which is composed of students, workers, union representatives and community organizations.

According to Wais,

SLAC is calling on the University to meet three demands: a \$15 minimum wage, a stipulation ensuring that workers will retain their jobs regardless of contract changes and for contracted workers to receive the same housing benefits as non-contracted workers.

"Hopkins is a well-known public health institution that constantly boasts about its commitment to Baltimore," Wais said. "If they truly care about the city of Baltimore, then they will meet our coalition's three demands. As the top employer in the state, Johns Hopkins actively supporting a \$15 minimum wage, and supporting it before 2022, would set an important precedent for all employers in the city."

Wais believes hesitance to raise the minimum wage to \$15 stems from greed rather than from an inability to implement such a change.

"It just doesn't make sense for a minimum wage to be below a livable wage," Wais said. "Both at Hopkins and throughout the city, this is an issue of priorities. The money is there. We just have to fight to make sure workers and their families are prioritized over profit margins."

Hopkins alum Rodney Burris, a professor at the Community College of Baltimore County Essex, agreed that fighting for a \$15 minimum wage is a necessity, but claimed he had not always held that view.

"This was a process for me. I absolutely believed we needed to have an increase in minimum wage from our college years, but what I didn't want to happen was the adverse effect of companies rais[ing] the price of their goods

and services, and it nullifies the increase," Burris said. "Well, then I thought about it... and it occurred to me the prices of goods and services have been going up regardless... So, then I was like, 'Okay, let's make it happen.'"

However, Burris second-guessed himself before ultimately becoming an advocate.

"We will win because justice demands it."

— MARY PAT CLARKE, COUNCILWOMAN

at the end of the day, I was like, you know what, we have to make this happen because civically-minded companies, small businesses, large corporations don't take that approach... They're in it to win it."

In order to dispel the idea that all business owners oppose a salary increase, FF\$15 invited a local small business to speak at the rally. Jacquelyn Jones Ziegler, owner of the adult entertainment store Sugar, said that she has paid her employees above minimum wage since opening in 2007. She explained how paying higher salaries can benefit business owners.

"The truth is when you pay your people fairly, when you treat them decently, shockingly people work harder and your

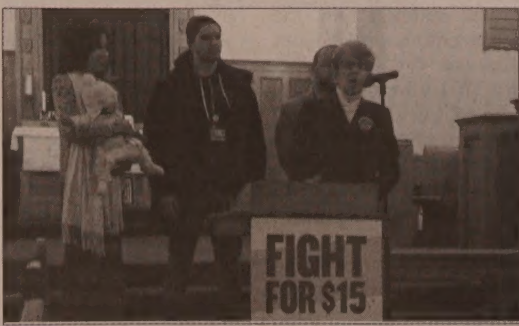
business is more successful," Ziegler said. "When my co-workers don't have lights at home, they don't sleep. They don't eat well. And then they come to work, and they're not able to do well. And that's no good for me, and that's no good for them."

Rachelle Bland, owner of Baltimore Blossoms, said she has also paid her employees above minimum wage since opening for moral reasons.

"We are our neighbors' keeper, so you have to do unto others what you want someone to do unto you," she said. "We're all in it together."

The rally concluded with testimony from members of Fight for \$15 Philadelphia who traveled to Baltimore specifically for the event. Ivory Bishop, a Kentucky Fried Chicken employee, shared her story of straining to support her family on \$7.75 an hour, 50 cents above Philadelphia's current minimum wage.

"Fight for \$15 for me means a lot because before I joined this three years ago, I was lost. I was another struggling African-American woman in poverty trying to raise two children. When Fight for \$15 came upon me, it was like a new light," Bishop said. "It brought new meaning to my life. It's something I can fight for not only for me and my children [but also for] my children's future and their children's future and so on and so on."



COURTESY OF CATHERINE PALMER
Baltimore City Councilwoman Clarke spoke in support of Fight for \$15.

By PETER JI
Senior Staff Writer

The third annual Public Health in Asia Symposium on Saturday featured two keynote speakers, Norman Epstein and Paul Kadetz, who discussed the culture of mental health care and antimicrobial resistance in China. The Symposium also included research on South Korea's universal health care system which was presented by graduate students from the School of Public Health and an undergraduate freshman.

Epstein, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, explained a study he performed on the state of mental health in China. As a family practitioner in China, Epstein explored how to best provide cognitive-behavior therapy to families there and took into account cultural differences between China and the West.

Epstein stressed that stigma surrounding mental illness is even greater in China than in the West. It not only affects individuals, but their families as well.

"The more a therapist displays empathy and warmth, the families do better. If you work on having effective family therapy in China, we have to take account the role of collectivism. We have to respect the role of respect and hierarchy in families," he said.

Epstein argued that promoting dialogue between children and their parents requires a different approach in China than in most Western countries. He also stressed how important it is to involve grandparents in therapy sessions, something which is not usually accepted in the U.S.

"What's really important is how you honor interactive communication rather than direct confrontation," he said. "I remember having a meeting with some of my colleagues in China. What often happens in China is that if a family is uncomfortable telling a therapist they don't like it, they don't tell me. We have to have some way to put pressure on it and a way for people to quietly disagree."

He also noted that negative body image is a significantly larger problem in Korea than in China or Japan. People often undergo plastic surgery, and Korea has the highest plastic surgery rate in the world.

According to the speakers, a second public health issue that will impact Asian countries in the future is antimicrobial resistance. Antibiotic-treated livestock is a large source of drug-resistant microbes, which then cycle through the environment to eventually reach humans.

Other contributing factors are the ease of obtaining over-the-counter antibiotics and a medical culture that dispenses antibiotics when they are not needed.

Kadetz, an associate professor of public health at Marshall University, stressed the potentially catastrophic impact of antimicrobial resistance. His presentation focused on tracing this resistance in rural China.

"This larger system of ecosystem problems that we don't pay much attention to is really a major

issue. In the resistance of *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA, during my time at Vanderbilt, we would see healthy people one day, and the next day they were dead," he said. "This is an issue not just there, but this is an issue everywhere."

According to Kadetz, resistant strains are twice as deadly as non-resistant strains. He said that by 2050, it is predicted that 10 million deaths will be caused by antimicrobial resistance. This will exceed the mortality rate of cancer worldwide. At the same time, it is becoming harder to discover new antibiotics.

Kadetz shared some of his observations while he was researching how Chinese pharmacies dispensed drugs.

"What we observed happening in pharmacies was a large number of people coming in and taking an antibiotics themselves or asking a pharmacy worker," he said. "But we did not see trained pharmacy workers, and what they were telling people for duration and amount was not the same as on the package."

Both modern and traditional medicines have been commercialized for customer demand, unregulated and free of expert advice. Kadetz explained that even doctors will give in to their patients' demands.

"It's a Western, modified health care modeled in China," he said. "People are not content unless they are treated, and there has been an uproar where physicians are being attacked. This is a result of patients not happy with their treatments. Very often, they give IVs of antibiotics regardless of whether an antibiotic is necessary."

The Symposium ended with three presentations on the Korean healthcare system. South Korea implemented universal healthcare coverage in 1989, but this paradoxically resulted in equity problems because it grouped coverage based on geographic and economic factors.

Over the next 20 years, South Korea reformed its system to create a National Health Insurance Program, which covers about 50 percent of hospital costs and lesser amounts for other visits. An aging population and regional inequalities still strain the system.

Chair of the Public Health Symposium Committee Isabel Evans elaborated on how they chose this year's topic.

"Our symposium chooses our topic by discussing what we believe are the most relevant and pressing themes in the field of public health in Asia. Then, we search relevant literature to find professors at nearby universities who we believe are conducting research that matches our theme," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Robin Yang, a parent of one of the organizing committee members, explained what she took away from the Symposium.

"It touched on many of topics that we don't talk about among Asians, like seeking therapy is not very common among Asians. They talked about how seeing an expert versus attending a class will make a lot of difference," she said. "I learned a lot of the differences between health services in the U.S., China and Korea."

NEWS & FEATURES

Students, faculty scrutinize updated Roadmap



The panel was a continuation of the University and activists' dialogue over race relations at Hopkins. The first forum (above) was in 2015.

ROADMAP, FROM A1
Co-Chair for Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) Chase Alston appreciated how the Roadmap encompasses equality for those of all backgrounds on campus. Yet, she echoed Hayes' point and said that the document fails to address issues specific to black students on campus.

"I like that there has been a Roadmap for all students, but I also think that using diversity to mask the specific things happening to people of black descent on campus is disrespectful for the people who originally brought forth these issues," she said.

Alston also expressed disappointment by saying how the conversation about race at Hopkins never seems to generate substantive improvements.

"What interests me the most is how cyclical things have been," Alston said. "There will be a lot of activism and people pushing for change, then things die down again. This repeats every five or 10 years, and there's no real gain. The University, however, still continues to make profit and remain the overarching winner in the entire situation."

BSU President Tiffany Onyejiaka argued that the Roadmap failed to address the challenges black students face on campus.

"The quality of life for black students on campus is very rarely discussed in the Roadmap," Onyejiaka said. "A vast majority of black students at Hopkins have had negative experiences on campus. They are not very happy with their experiences. Students as early as first semester freshmen have addressed these issues."

Onyejiaka said that this was due to many factors including comments from faculty who she said were not culturally sensitive to students.

"Certain students feel that they can't celebrate their blackness without feeling that they may be attacked," Onyejiaka said. "Creating a culture where black students don't feel so separated is important, since as a whole I continue to hear that students are not happy with their experience."

Alston referred back to one of the BSU's demands where they called for the University to stop using images of black students in their admissions advertisements by saying that the portrayals are not an accurate representation of the black student experience. She also explained how this is reminiscent of the way black people have been

taken advantage of by the University.

"The commercialization of black bodies in different settings and using them to get more students and faculty for University profit without addressing their needs is an issue," Alston said. "Not only has that continued, but it's been something that highlights a long history of exploitation of black bodies."

Hayes criticized the racial barriers that he said prevent the hiring of black faculty.

"Racism has continued," he said. "Since coming to Hopkins in 2004, I have urged for the recruitment and hiring of black professors, only to be laughed at by deans and faculty members who suggested the impossibility of this task."

Interim Chief Diversity Officer James Page spoke on behalf of the administration. He acknowledged that Hopkins has had a history of racism but that they have made significant strides since then.

"Mr. Hopkins and his family set free their slaves and went poor," Page said. "His family decided to step up and do something that was unusual at the time."

However, Page believes that the current situation at Hopkins does not reflect the original principles of the institution and that there is still work to be done.

"The challenge is not whether or not [racism] is part of our roots. The challenge is not in the foundations," he said. "The challenge is that we have not lived up to the bar that was set so many years ago."

The panel also spoke about the relationship between Hopkins and the greater Baltimore community. Alston specifically addressed the ongoing struggle between the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) and the University. She brought up the issue of minimum wage for contract workers at Hopkins, many of whom are Baltimore locals and African American.

"The \$15 minimum wage has been disregarded. Meetings were promised but the meetings have mysteriously disappeared. There has been racism from the administration," Alston said. "These people have been putting in work for

decades but do not have anything to bring back home... It is something that everyone is aware of, but they will not address it now because they don't think it's an immediate issue."

Panelist Abby Neyenhouse, assistant director of the Center for Social Concern spoke about her experience with the Baltimore community in managing the Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP). She addressed the hostile relationship she noticed between the University and the Baltimore community.

"There was push back from community partners that were really skeptical of having undergraduates work with them and just reinforcing the 'typical Hopkins,'" Neyenhouse said. "There are concerns that we might just be doing research on the community, not sharing information with the community, and that we might be looking for something that might make our students look good but not benefit the organization."

Neyenhouse was particularly concerned with the "Engaging with Baltimore" section in the Roadmap on Diversity document. She felt that the section, which promises economic inclusion and partnerships with local public schools, failed to explain who exactly the programs benefited.

"I would say that one of the central themes to address is: Who are the programs for?" Neyenhouse said. "Are we engaging with Baltimore as a way for the University to look better or in authentic ways to improve the state of the city for the members that are there?"

Regarding the Roadmap as a whole, Page recognized that there were limitations as to what the document could achieve but that it was a step in the right direction.

"Despite these efforts, however, it is impossible to stop racism," Page said. "People are going to have prejudice. What we have to realize is how we can get to these things before they surface and damage people who are important within our community."

Alston hesitated to praise the Roadmap.

"I understand the point of celebrating progress, and celebrating the

work that's been done," she said. "I think it continues the legacy of exploitation that Hopkins has had with the community."

Nathan D. Connolly, associate professor of history, was an audience member for the panel. He spoke about how there are terms other than "diversity" that are used to avoid addressing racial issues.

"We must be careful, though, not to get derailed by vague commitments to 'Academic Freedom,' a term that comes up often in the Roadmap," Connolly wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In its historical use relative to school desegregation efforts, 'Academic Freedom' represents a conservative fig leaf meant to preserve and conceal racial inequities in intellectual investment and institutional representations. The term actually appears more than the term 'racism' in the Roadmap."

Connolly also urged people to become more involved in discussions surrounding race as a way to make a community that better addresses racism.

"We have a lot of people who are not actively engaged," he wrote. "There are voiceless by choice. We need to wake those people up and figure out they can help us create the kind of environment that we need to create."

Junior Maliha Choudhury explained that she went to this event as a way to join the ongoing discussions about race.

"The University is an influential institution and I wanted to learn more about the JHU Roadmap for Diversity and Inclusion and its weaknesses and strengths," she said.

Panelists talk black Muslim communities

By HANA KADIR
For *The News-Letter*

The African Students Association (ASA) hosted a forum on the black Muslim community in Baltimore on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Charles Commons. The discussion revolved around Baltimore residents' experience of the intersection between blackness and Islam.

The panelists included spoken word artists Sadiyah Bashir and Mohamed Tall, business manager Kieta Iriarte-Amin, founder of Muslimat Al Nisaa Shelter Asma Hanif, Musaa Abdurahaman of the Islamic Community School, and Imam Earl El-Amin. Sophomore Sami Ayele, history and education chair of ASA, moderated the panel.

Ayele opened the discussion by asking each panelist how they celebrate black history month.

"Black History month is 12 months out of the year," El-Amin said. "As black Muslim Americans, we have a triple consciousness. We are never not aware of our blackness, and we are never not aware of our religion. This month, to me, is about teaching others that being black and Muslim don't have to be mutually exclusive."

Hanif agreed with El-Amin and said this month is about not being held back from the prejudice and discrimination of others.

"Everything that I have accomplished has come from my knowledge and understanding of what I'm supposed to be doing as a Muslim to help others," Hanif said.

She said this is what inspired her to open a homeless shelter for Muslim women and children.

"I wanted to be able to make a difference in the lives of Muslim women, especially those who come here from different countries and have no family, no resources and nowhere to live," Hanif said. "It's important to me to give them the tools to be productive members of society without changing who they are."

Spoken word artist and sophomore at Morgan State University Mohamed Tall spoke about how he struggled with his identity being both black and Muslim.

"It's like trying to ex-

ist," Tall said. "You know you're real, but the rest of the world doesn't want to recognize you. It forces you to question yourself a lot: your history, your identity. But the biggest thing I learned through my faith and through my poetry is that blackness and Islam do equate."

Ayele asked the speakers what students can do to engage with the black Muslim community in Baltimore.

Bashir, founder of *Pray, Say & Slay* magazine, encouraged attendants to find everyday ways to get involved with their communities.

"There are so many different ways to be a leader," Bashir said. "You don't have to be in front of a camera, or on a panel. Wherever you fit in, that's okay, as long as you're making a positive impact."

El-Amin agreed with Bashir, stating that Hopkins students have a unique opportunity by being in Baltimore, one of the most diverse cities in the U.S.

"Education is not just in the classroom," El-Amin said. "Education is interacting with people outside of your college environment. Most of the mosques are located in some of the most undesirable parts of Baltimore city; That's not by happenstance. We want to be able to change peoples' lives, to be a positive light."

Junior Aleena Nasir said she enjoyed hearing the how the panelists were making a difference in their communities.

"The main thing [the panelists] focused on was getting involved in your community," Nasir said. "Especially us as Hopkins students, leaving campus and getting involved in the amazing social services that they do is really important."

Freshman Tarek Meah decided to attend the event to learn more about the black Muslim community in America.

"As a person of color and a Muslim, I am not unaware of the injustices the community faces here and abroad, but I have been spared of these instances," Meah wrote. "I would not be here if not for the fight of black and Muslim rights activists. [The panelists] showed me that it's my obligation to continue this fight."

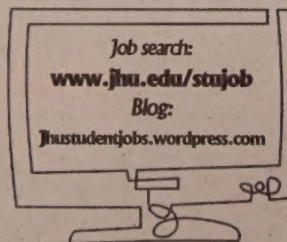


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NEWS & FEATURES

Students host summer camp for children of cancer-afflicted families



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER NG

Camp Kesem invites children with family members affected by cancer for a week-long trip.

KESEM, FROM A1

Having served as a student leader last summer, Lin was impressed by the camp's far-reaching impact, which sometimes goes beyond the local area.

"Kids typically attend the camp closest to them, but one of the most surprising things to me is that some of our campers who have moved away from the area still come back to attend our camp," Lin said. "Just the fact that they're willing to travel back for the JHU Camp Kesem speaks about the connections they make to other campers and the sense of community that's here for them."

At the camp, both campers and counselors choose cute and quirky character names for themselves. According

to senior Diana Lee, who is the camp's marketing and public relations coordinator, the names serve as a reminder that the camp world is different from the real world.

"We want the children to have fun at camp, be imaginative and to develop personalities and stories without the stress of their parents' cancer," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "For example, mine is Ravioli!"

Other camp names include Goku, Kiwi, Turtle-neck, Froyo and many more.

Though planning for camp and recruiting counselors has been an eye-opening experience, Ma concluded that nothing beats the camp experience itself.

"I love spending time with the campers, going paddle-boating or even

parents' cancer, and you really feel completely humbled and impressed by how strong these children are," Ma said. "Even as a 21-year-old, I can't imagine how to emotionally and mentally handle having my mom or dad be diagnosed with cancer."

Ma also spoke about the effects of the program on her as a volunteer.

"Seeing them experience and overcome their fears and sadness makes me extremely honored to be able to share a week of my summer with them," she said.

Having personally witnessed her mother take care of her grandmother during her fight with cancer, Lin is determined to support and help these children.

"With all the fun and

games that we have at camp, it's easy to forget that all of the campers have been touched by a parent's cancer, but that's good because we want them to have a blast," Lin said.

She also spoke about the self-fulfillment she feels when working with the kids.

"The smiles on their faces and the families' genuine appreciation for Kesem makes the work that we do throughout the year to fundraise, plan, train counselors and prepare for camp worth it," she said.

Lin compared the feelings she had while participating in Camp Kesem last summer to those felt during a concert.

"Just like people feel hyped at a concert of thousands of people or comforted at home with friends or family, I feel a sense of empowerment at Camp Kesem," she said. "The kids are such wonderful and strong people, and the bond that comes with sharing a more sensitive side of life isn't something you can replicate somewhere else."

So far this year, the chapter has held a Krispy Kreme fundraiser, a fall reunion to catch up with the campers and their families and a Giving Tuesday social media campaign to encourage people to donate to the Camp Kesem cause.

Moving forward, the Hopkins chapter looks to expand its membership

both in terms of its campers and its volunteers.

"We want to be able to support more children and also give more undergraduate students the

opportunity to experience Camp Kesem," Ma said. "My goal is to build a strong community, where our old and new counselors will actively work together to create an amazing camp experience every year together."

One a similar note, Lee spoke about raising awareness on campus about the services the organization provides.

"Like Camp Kesem at other universities, our chapter has been trying to establish a strong presence on campus and to gift JHU

students with a unique experience of coordinating all that is necessary to make Camp Kesem a care-free time for these children," she wrote.

Overall, Ma describes Camp Kesem as an unparalleled experience for everyone involved.

"What I've seen JHU Camp Kesem do is become a staple in the lives of these children," Ma said. "I've

seen these campers grow each and every year and how much they love coming back to camp to see their friends — they can't imagine summers without Camp Kesem, and neither can I."

Applications for counselor positions in the summer are currently open. Interested students are encouraged to apply.

"You really feel humbled and impressed by how strong these children are."

— ERICA MA, JUNIOR



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER NG

The Hopkins chapter of Camp Kesem has been active since 2011.

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DEADLINE: March 26, 2017

FRESHMEN ROOM SELECTION

Get all the information you need regarding your living accommodations for the 2017-2018 academic year. Housing will be presenting information on the Online Freshmen Room Selection Process.

Please join us for the Freshmen Housing Process Informational Sessions:

Wednesday, February 22nd @ 4:00pm - Charles Commons, Salon C

Monday, February 27th @ 6:00pm - AMR I Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 6th @ 6:00pm - Charles Commons, Salon B

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday, February 21st &

Monday, February 27th

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Housing Information Booth

Fresh Food Cafe'

Monday, February 22nd | 4:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

Charles Commons, Salon C

Friday, February 24th | 5:00pm

Commuter Exemption application available online.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Monday, February 27th | 6:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

AMR I - Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 6th | 5:00pm

Commuter Exemption application deadline.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Monday, March 6th | 6:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection Process

Information Session

Charles Commons, Salon B

Monday, March 6th | 12:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection application available online.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Sunday, March 12th | 11:59pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection

application deadline.

<https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

Tuesday, March 14th | 6:00pm

"Meet Your Match - Roommate Edition"

McCoy Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday, March 30th | 3:00pm

Freshmen Online Room Selection

Time Slot Notification distributed via email.

Friday, March 31st | 6:00pm & 7:00pm

"Making Your Timeslot Work for You"/

Freshmen Online Room Selection Portal Demo

AMR I MPR & Reading Room

Monday 4/3, Tuesday 4/4, & Thursday 4/6

Online Freshmen Room Selection Process.

Choosing time based on Group's Time Slot

Notification.



VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

How I came to love watching sports



Diva Parekh
Copy Queen

Around this time last year, I attended my first sports game at Hopkins, a baseball game. I had friends on the baseball team who had been encouraging me to come to a game for weeks. It just never ended up happening because I'd always find some excuse.

Truth is I was a little nervous. I had no idea what people did at baseball games, especially people like me who didn't even know the rules. Would they judge me for not understanding anything? Did people like me even bother going? And it was too cold to sit in those bleachers anyway.

So I put off going, until this one ridiculously beautiful morning. My roommate and her boyfriend were, well, doing their thing, so I couldn't stay in my room. It was too nice to even think about studying indoors. At this point I might as well go to the game, right? Clambering up the stairs into the stadium, I saw my friends waving me over, and I sat down with them.

Let me start by saying that I understood absolutely nothing. I distinctly remember asking my friend what the white diamond-y thing the guy hit the bat on was. It was home plate. I got mocked mercilessly for that question. Even as they laughed at my unfathomable baseball stupidity, I realized that I wasn't being judged at all.

Throughout the rest of the game, I'd continue asking questions, get mocked for them, receive explanations and then ask again. Over the course of little more than a month of going to baseball games, I started to understand how it worked.

Going to these games, I grew closer to a lot of the athletes, and in what seemed like an instant, they became family. Once my sophomore year started, I was going to every sports game. They became part of my routine.

It wasn't until the volleyball game that decided who won the Centennial Conference, though, that I realized how invested I'd become. This game was intense. It went up to five sets, which is the closest a competition can get in volleyball. It was only at the end of those three hours that I realized I had been digging my nails into my palms the whole time.

When the volleyball team went to their following tournament, I was in class, completely unable to pay attention. I had the live stats up on my screen, and was completely transfixed. Slowly, somehow, without my realizing, a little group had formed of people who had angled

their chairs ever so slightly toward my screen. They were all watching it too.

That day showed me how sports can bring people together, even over state lines...

On Tuesday, my friends and I spontaneously decided to go on a 58-mile road trip to Gettysburg College to watch the women's basketball playoffs. The team had no idea we were coming, and their faces lit up as soon as we walked in dressed in all our Hopkins glory.

It was a close game, but eventually we lost. Two of our friends on the team hung back to tell us how much they appreciated us coming out. Yes, they had just lost a game, but they still meant every word, and that's what I admire about them.

In high school, I had absolutely no interest in

That day showed me how powerful sports can be in bringing people together, even over state lines.

sports. I really don't know what changed between then and now. Maybe it's my friends or maybe it's that I enjoy not only the game but the people I watch it with. Maybe I had no idea what I was missing out on all my life. Maybe the energy and the zeal of the people on the court or field inspires me every single time I go out to watch a game.

So come this Saturday, I'll be in the baseball stadium for seven hours watching two consecutive games in the pouring rain. Part of why I would choose to do that to myself is because the people on the field aren't just baseball players to me, they're some of my closest friends.

But there's another part of me that sees their passion and understands why they care so much. It's that part of me that has started to care too.

What it's like having a hidden disability



Katherine Logan
Guest Columnist

I have the kind of invisible disability you won't necessarily notice as I jaywalk across Charles Street, rush up the Gilman steps to class or carry a stack of books to a table at Brody to find a seat next to you. Yet in many ways, my disability's influence on my Hopkins experience is omnipresent.

My epilepsy is there when, in the middle of a lecture hall with hundreds of other students around, my pen pauses mid-sentence, my vision fades as though I'm looking at the scene before me through an unfocused microscope with a strange amalgamation of colors like the worst Instagram filter you've ever seen hindering my view of the professor.

It's usually right around then that the nausea hits me in a wave, followed by an overwhelming sense of fear. *Am I going to have a seizure right now? Should I say something in front of everyone even though it might not happen? That'd be such a distraction and everyone would be looking at me...*

If I'm being honest, it's this train of thought that more often than not leads me to choose not saying anything despite the risk of something actually happening.

But the classroom setting is just one example of many. Last week, I was beyond excited for the opportunity to attend a gathering with my new sorority sisters. As we arrived at the venue, I felt confident, optimistic and comfortable.

Then I walked into the room where everyone was dancing only to have my eyes assailed by a rainbow of bright colored lights, a

strobe effect adding to the lights' searing intensity.

While on the outside I tried to appear calm and collected and dance through it, internally, I was already fretting over whether or not I was going to have a seizure. My nerves, in combination with the lights themselves, did in fact lead me to feel the beginnings of the "aura" I described earlier.

I fled the dance floor. My friends were understanding and even offered to turn off the lights, but that couldn't console me about the fact that there are just some moments when my epilepsy makes me feel more isolated and limited than others.

I think I speak for everyone when I say that almost all of us have felt the pervasive academic pressure and sense of competition that permeates Hopkins and, consequently, have pulled an all-nighter at one point or another to put the finishing touches on a paper or complete a problem set.

Well, as I quickly learned over the course of my first semester here, in the wake of those kinds of late nights, my brain simply can't function correctly. The "day after," as I have termed it, I find myself constantly misplacing or forgetting things.

I can't focus; I experience more seizure symptoms (including debilitating headaches), and the exhaustion hits me really, really hard. I know what you might be thinking, but this isn't a cop out: It's simply my reality. Just ask the Housing Office in Wolman how many times I've locked myself out of my suite because I left my room without my key. Ask my boss about whether or not I, the girl who is usually ten minutes early to everything, missed a key interview recently.

I'll be the first to admit, I've left my wallet in Gilman more than once only to have it returned to me by a Good Samaritan. Meanwhile, when I look back on



FILE PHOTO

My hidden disability made it hard to adapt to Hopkins work culture.

my notes from lectures on such especially tough days, I can often barely make heads or tails of what I've written, even though in the moment I know I was rapidly paying attention.

First semester, I struggled to come to terms with the ways I felt like my epilepsy prevented me from fitting into the "constantly working, always stressed out" mold of the students I saw around me. I thought I'd come to terms with my epilepsy in high school, yet looking back, it's clear to me that there were many times last fall when I still felt shame about it or feared being judged as less capable because of it.

Even so, the point of this article isn't for me to throw a pity party for myself. I'm the kind of girl who believes in angry determination rather than self-indulgence. Hopkins truly does have a great resource in place for students with disabilities in the Student Disability Services Office, whose help has proved invaluable to me.

Additionally, something I've come to realize that has played an even bigger role in helping me adapt to life at Hopkins is that it only takes one person speaking out about their disability to inspire others to come forward and start a real conversation about the unique challenges we face as disabled students here, the means of coping we've discovered, and how we can better support one another.

By writing this piece, I'm hopeful that I can raise

awareness not solely about us, the students who deal with the challenges of epilepsy, but, more broadly, the everyday struggles that members of our community face that might not be obvious from the outside looking in.

I think sometimes each of us is so caught up in our own little bubble, so completely focused on studying for that midterm that's coming up or our plans for the weekend that it's easy to lash out at others when they do something as little as knock over our cup of coffee or bump into us on the street.

Instead, we should consider giving each other the benefit of the doubt more; We rarely know what forces outside of their control might be impacting our peers.

Additionally, I aim to remind my fellow students who face similar obstacles in their day-to-day lives at Hopkins that they aren't alone. We make up a strong, courageous part of the Hopkins community that deserves to have its voice heard.

We should be unashamed of admitting our weaknesses or asking for help in times of need, and we should be proud of the influential roles we play in this community, proud of the fact that when we could've made excuses or held ourselves to a lower standard, we chose to push ourselves to achieve more, to rise above and reach for the challenge of attending this institution in spite of our circumstances.

Car Seat Headrest is the new band you should be listening to



Hayley Bronner
Rising Ambitions

Looking for a group of guys with an edgy name to swoon over? Or a new indie-rock band to distract you while studying for those impending midterms that are fast approaching? How about just some worldly musicians to stare at when your TA is not sitting behind you in lecture? Well, look no further because Car Seat Headrest is here and they are not leaving anytime soon.

Although Car Seat Headrest is not exactly the edgy name you were expecting from a group of cool, young new musicians, it perfectly describes Will Toledo and his band. Toledo started the project himself in 2010, when he was still in college.

He chose this name because he recorded the vocals of his few first albums in the back seat of his car. This was both for privacy and because he had access to so few professional resources. However, ultimately this less-than-state-of-the-art recording studio worked in his advantage, showcasing his real, raw talent.

Toledo's fan base grew in 2011 with the debut of his seventh album, titled *Twin Fantasy*, which was released via Bandcamp, an online music store catering to independent artists. In total, Will Toledo released eleven self-recorded Bandcamp albums throughout his college years.

Teens of Denial, which was released last May, is Toledo's first studio-recorded album with a real band. Ethan Ives, Andrew Katz, and Seth Dalby joined in the band for the recording. *Teens of Denial* has had tremendous success, even rising to number four on *Rolling Stone's* "50 Best Albums of 2016."

One article basically sums up all of the emotions that you ride while listening to the band's album, which is nothing like

you have heard before.

Rolling Stone writes that the song "Killer Whales/Drunk Drivers" is "a gorgeously tender song that uses the title analogy to unpack a dizzying load of self-loathing that, suddenly, turns into self-love; swelling like an energy cloud in a yoga-class creative visualization exercise and exploding into a sing-along chorus of 'It doesn't have to be like this!'" like some hollow "It Gets Better" PSA transformed into a true salvation army, one so convinced of its mission it devotes its penultimate verse to talking a drunk out of their car and instructing them to "walk" home.

While that is a bit of mouthful and a little longer than practical if you're simply trying to describe the album to a friend, it really could not have been

said any better.

Will Toledo cites Kendrick Lamar's 2015 *To Pimp a Butterfly* as an unlikely, but vital, source of inspiration. He tells Collin Brennan of *Consequence of Sound* that "there aren't a lot of albums these days that are really lyrically on-point all the way through... that's one of the major things I look for in an album, so it's hard to find contemporary stuff that I'm really into." Kendrick Lamar's music does just this for him.

You will surely be surprised at the depth of Car Seat Headrest's music, which plays with the dynamics of sound and emo-

tion while also just being generally exceptional music to relax to after a long day of homework and exams, so give the band a listen, particularly because Toledo bears a striking resemblance to Clark Kent, and that is pretty cool.

While the band is about to embark on a tour all the way from New Orleans and Los Angeles to the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland, among other places across Europe and the United States, Car Seat Headrest will be close-by this summer when they will be performing at the Governors Ball in New York.



PAUL HUDSON/CC BY 2.0

Will Toledo began by recording vocals in his car, inspiring the name Car Seat Headrest.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Why is everything poetry but poetry?



Morgan Ome & Audrey Holt
Couch Conversations

Grab a seat on the couch. We're just about to begin.

Audrey: Humor me for a minute: When was the last time you heard someone mention poetry? Unless you're one of us still clutching on to the dream of studying and writing poetry, it was probably a while ago. I'd even venture to guess that it wasn't even in a conversation about poetry.

For example, "Have you seen *Moonlight* yet? That movie was poetry," or "What a game! That hidden ball trick was poetic." Or, in a short-lived, sci-fi TV show from 2008, *The Middleman*, there was even, "Their tofu scramble is a poem."

Morgan: That's very true. And yes, I was the one who said that *Moonlight* is like poetry. It seemed like a fitting comparison.

Audrey: Fair enough, and it definitely makes me want to go see *Moonlight* even more now. Plus, it's not like the everything-is-poetry game is a new phenomenon: Honoré de Balzac's 1835 novel *Le Père Goriot* has the line "*Mais nos beaux sentiments ne sont-ils pas les poésies de la volonté?*" (But are not our finer feelings the poetry of the will?) I'm curious though: What do we mean by referring to something non-poetic and even non-literary as poetry?

Morgan: To me, referring to something as poetry is certainly a compliment. I'll use the *Moonlight* comparison as an example. When I say that *Moonlight* is poetic, it means the film wasn't just good or enjoyable, but it was beautiful and artful in its emotional intensity and impact.

The cinematography, the scoring, the script and the score all combined to create a carefully crafted meditation on the human condition that I couldn't describe as anything but poetic.

Audrey: And maybe there's also an element of completeness or fineness of construction, as though there would be nothing to add or take away. These uses probably pack something of the punch of the formal elements of poetry, the discipline of meter, rhyme and form.

Morgan: Exactly. When I saw *Moonlight*, I thought it was designed in

a very thoughtful and expressive way, like a poem. Each part of the film was like a stanza, and within that, each line of dialogue and facial expression was a unit of emotion.

You knew that the film had been carefully planned out; From the score to every individual frame, it all felt intentional in the same way that every word and line break is a conscious choice in poetry. And I don't think many films are like that.

Audrey: That's really interesting. So when we think of a tofu scramble as a poem, we're not just talking about the hedonistic pleasure of tasty food. It does more than just satisfy a need or an urge; It fulfills itself in

some way and becomes the best version of what it is.

What do we mean by referring to something non-poetic and even non-literary as poetry?

Morgan: Similarly, people often talk about dancing as "poetry

in motion" or "poetry of the foot." Dancing is a celebration; Somehow, it seems to be the highest potential of motion.

Audrey: But there's another question to address here. We've talked about what these descriptions say about the things described, but what does all this say about poetry?

For the most part, we don't read poetry after we've graduated from high school and bid goodbye to the requisite Shakespeare plays and sonnets, yet why when we want to express something as elegant, do we turn to the blanket label of "poetry"?

Morgan: Well, that comparison has a lot to do with the historical value of poetry. Think of the lyric and epic poets of Ancient Greece and of Renaissance writers like Petrarch and Dante. They were venerated. Their works were considered to be important and significant. Aristocratic patrons dispensed huge sums of money to support their artistic endeavors.

Now, I don't think that people attribute the same amount of worth to poetry as they did in previous eras. Poetry, for some, has been rendered obsolete and meaningless.

Audrey: Sadly. But maybe it's a good sign that people are still talking, however circuitously, about poetry.

W. H. Auden's "In Memory of W. B. Yeats" contains the often-quoted line "poetry makes nothing happen." Most of the time, when people excerpt this line, it is to prove that poetry is as useless as the skeptics would have us believe, but those people leave out Auden's material point: "poetry makes nothing happen: it survives."

To an extent, *survive* is exactly what poetry has done, creeping into the daily discourse even as the poets themselves have fallen out of fashion with the mainstream.

Gold rush in the rubble: why vote for Le Pen?



Lucas Feuser
You're Up

Mirrors and windows. I've said it before and I'm saying it again. You never know which is which.

You're on a train. You lucked out; The train is packed but you still manage to snag a seat. You find yourself a nice corner by a cold window and just wait for the train to get going. It was a long night. It's early, too early, and you want to fall asleep, but you can't, because there is no bodily contortion that is comfortable enough.

You admit defeat, your earbuds drone on, and your vision hazily drifts in and out of focus as you stare through the glass pane. It is almost frustrating at first that you can't fall asleep, but you quickly settle into your half-awake-ness. It feels comfortable in its own way.

Eventually the train bucks into life. Half-awake and indifferent to anything that passes your eyes, you look forward to something just taking your sorrow. 15-year-old cars scarred by dents and abuse and small suburban homes with paint older than the cars, with American flags erected on the dead grass of their front lawn: These are just some of your sights.

You see them, you know they're real, you aren't trying to deny their

existence, but the only time you see those sights are through the glass pane of a train.

In the back of your mind, you still really want to sleep, to escape the boring monotony of being on a train and to fully envision the fantasies and emotions that your music is feeding you. You try to compromise with those desires by daydreaming. You don't become blind to what you see, but your mind is certainly not really paying attention. But who cares, right? You're just on train.

As you continue reading and, if I'm lucky, even after you're done reading, remember you're on a train. This column, and especially this piece, is about perspective. What you see and what you think are far from the same.

You don't know why they hang their flags as proudly as they do. You don't know what is "in their interests." You're on a train and everything you see is through a glass pane that is both a window and a mirror. Keep reminding yourself of that.

Here's a quote from someone who lives in the neighborhood outside the train in Aubervilliers, Paris. "If she wins, it will be a good thing. The left and right are all bastards. They promise things and they don't deliver. Let's vote for Le Pen and see what happens."

He's Muslim. He's voting for President of the National Front political party Marine Le Pen, a woman whose anti-Islam message has been a cornerstone of her entire campaign for president of France. Social progressives have been on the offensive when it comes to hateful, xenophobic language.

Le Pen's message is deemed racist and to

some even analogous to the words of Hitler or Mussolini. Why would a Muslim vote for her?

I don't know. I'm on the train, just like you. I'm trying to stay awake, stay focused, but it is so damn hard. How am I supposed to tell you what French Muslims think? I can't, I wouldn't be fit to. I have no answers. None of us do. Who do we think we are? God?

We are all Faust. We have studied so hard only to pretend we know something, to get a piece of paper that says people can trust us without looking like idiots when we are wrong. So instead of searching for answers, look for questions.

Ask the why's, the who's, the what's and never be satisfied with an answer. We won't ever leave the train, but kill the desire to fall asleep. Look through the glass pane and live to distinguish between the window and the mirror.

Here are the questions that I am posing myself:

1. Why would a Muslim vote for Le Pen?
2. Is Le Pen an anti-Islamic fundamentalist?
3. Why would a Muslim not vote for a conservative or a socialist?
4. What have either

of those parties done for Muslims in France?

5. To what extent have the traditional parties driven Muslim voters to the extremes?

6. What do Muslims think of each other?

7. Is an attack on Islamic fundamentalism an attack on all of Islam?

8. Why do we people ignore that Muslims are a large constituency of far-right movements?

9. To what extent is the following quote on some Muslim's views on immigration true: "It's a case of the last to arrive closing the door?" (*Spectator*)

10. To what extent is the following true: "Some children of immigrants imagine that to be truly French, they must be a little racist and pick on foreigners?" (*Spectator*)

11. Will Le Pen or any far-right movement really destroy the "system"?

From what I understand, that's what many hope for: a wrecking ball to the entire French government. I doubt there is anyone who would call Le Pen "pro-Islam," but maybe what Muslims are hoping for is that when Le Pen brings the wrecking ball, there will be something for them in the rubble.



BLANDINE LE CAIN/CC BY 2.0

Le Pen is a leader of the National Front political party in France.

How the Ace Attorney game influenced me



Sudgie Ma
New Game

At Hopkins, we have four different mock trial teams. I belong to the one that has mostly JHU Model United Nations Conference (JHUMUNC) members because our schedules matched up more often. We were all busy until last week, so we barely got any practice time in. But the problem with our lack of practice didn't stop there.

Three of our members left the team shortly before last week as well, so

most of the team had to take on additional roles. We were definitely set back, and that last week was the only one during which we practiced with our reduced team.

It definitely came as a huge surprise when my team ended up qualifying for the tournament after the American Mock Trial Association's Regional Tournaments, known as the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS). We were the last team to qualify, but it was nonetheless very unexpected. The whole time at Regionals, my team's motto had been "be less bad."

It's definitely an honor to be able to move on beyond Regionals in my first year of mock trial in spite of the fact that I only tried out in the first place because I really enjoy the *Ace Attorney* video game series.

Most of the *Ace Attorney* games are all about a

rookie defense attorney who takes up some seriously crazy murder cases.

The games themselves aren't particularly hard to complete; They're known for compelling storytelling and characters. Most cases are divided into investigation periods and trial periods. While investigating, the story doesn't usually advance all that much; You mostly just talk to witnesses (many of whom are initially very reluctant to give out any information) and gather evidence before the start of the trial.

I definitely find the investigation periods less interesting. You usually have to look into every nook and cranny before you can proceed, but they're necessary and worth it for the upcoming trial.

Gameplay during trial just mostly involves selecting the right piece of evidence to present or choosing the right argument out of the given options. In my experience, there was usually just the right amount of thinking required to stay immersed but not too much to frustrate me. There have been a few times where I had to stop playing to look up a guide in order to continue but not often enough to detract from the experience.

Though what I've described so far may not sound that interesting, there are some very unforgettable moments in the series, including bringing in a parrot as a witness,

breaking down a lying witness so hard during a cross-examination that they claw at their face until it bleeds and summoning attorney ghosts to be your co-counsels in trial. The heavily referenced image of attorneys shouting "OBJECTION!" and pointing at the opposing counsel is quite tame compared to the rest of what happens in an *Ace Attorney* courtroom.

So if you couldn't tell already, there are a lot of differences between mock trial and *Ace Attorney*. First, in mock trial we stick with the same case all year. This year's mock trial case is about age discrimination as opposed to *Ace Attorney* cases, which are all about murder.

Second, there are long documents with courtroom rules that prevent crazy stuff from happening. Third, there's no trying to solve a mystery in mock trial. You don't care about finding the real truth, you just argue for the side you're given.

In *Ace Attorney*, the identity of the murderer is always one of the biggest driving forces in the case. In mock trial, it's swaying your judge. I don't really know why I expected what I did; Many students who do mock trial are pre-law with genuine intentions to become attorneys down the line.

So what I discovered was that *Ace Attorney* is really just a fictional game series; Who knew?



COURTESY OF SUDGIE MA

The *Ace Attorney* games helped convince Sudgie to join mock trial.

the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Black history should be honored throughout the entire year

As February draws to a close, so too does the nation’s observance of Black History Month. The Hopkins community has been engaged in a month of educational and celebratory programs to honor the contributions of black Americans. But why end on Feb. 28?

This year, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) partnered with student groups such as the African Students Association, The Black Student Union, Hopkins Feminists and many others to facilitate discussions and events surrounding black history.

In addition, the Center for Africana Studies (CAS) hosted several panels and talks to educate students. Programming organized by OMA and CAS has included a screening of the documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* and a discussion about Islam in Baltimore to a panel entitled “Black Creatives and American Whitelash.”

The Editorial Board commends the University and student organizations for putting together a comprehensive and diverse calendar of events. We further appreciate that the University, through OMA and CAS, has directly supported Black History Month events, demonstrating their commitment to educating the community beyond the classroom about the African-American experience.

We particularly appreciate the Black Issues in Higher Education forum in which panelists discussed the University’s Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion. The fact that James Page, vice provost and interim chief diversity officer, served as a panelist further emphasizes the University’s goal to address race.

The Editorial Board believes it is important to reflect on race relations, especially in today’s turbulent and divisive political climate. Instead of just using the language of diversity to make our University look good, it is important that we use it to right past wrongs and equalize racial power structures.

Black History Month affords the University and its students the opportunity to reflect on their role within our city. Hopkins was built on the backs of slaves; the campus was formerly a plantation. In Baltimore, Hopkins wields incredible power as a large private employer and developer, and yet many people of color still disproportionately suffer from our country’s enduring inequalities.

We acknowledge that the University has made real efforts to improve relations with the community and come to terms with its troubled history. However, these are important and complex issues, and there is still progress to be made.

An area in which the University still has room for improvement is its employee makeup. The University’s employment profile is an example of how the racial inequality still reverberates today. Many lower paying jobs are occupied by people of color, while the higher paying jobs are primarily held by white employees. While we recognize that the University has actively worked to lessen this inequality, there are still a long way to go.

The Editorial Board encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to learn about black history outside the events hosted this month. Because black history is American history, it is important for students to stay informed, educated and conscious.

FAS lineup reflects current political climate on campus

The Foreign Affairs Symposium’s (FAS) speaker series theme this semester is “Undercurrent,” which the promotional poster describes as “an underlying feeling or influence, especially one that is contrary to the prevailing atmosphere.”

So far, we’ve seen inspiring speakers like Nadya Tolokonnikova, a member of Russian protest band Pussy Riot, Chiamamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Hopkins grad and acclaimed writer, and Junot Díaz, an award-winning novelist.

The Editorial Board commends FAS for both a fascinating lineup and theme. College campuses have always been places where people can freely express dissent. Given the current state of American politics and the political climate here at Hopkins, these speakers have never been more welcome, and students have consistently praised FAS’s choices.

FAS has demonstrated a clear awareness of and commitment to the topics that are important to the Hopkins community and has responded by bringing a diverse and creative group of people to share their experiences.

Upcoming speakers Aneesh Chopra, a former United States Chief Technology Officer, and Suroosh Alvi, a founder of VICE Media, represent science and journalism, respectively, two fields that the Trump administration has unjustly attacked. Their perspective is needed now more than ever.

FAS will exhibit art by Ai Weiwei, a Chinese artist and social activist, on and will bring Ron Capps to campus to discuss the Veterans Writing Project, a program that helps veterans cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) through writing. FAS’s decision to branch out from their traditional event format is welcome and further reflects their commitment to community engagement.

The Editorial Board thanks FAS for such a captivating lineup, and we encourage members of the Hopkins community to take advantage of the speakers and events that are yet to happen this semester.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The *News-Letter* encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. The *Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author’s name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week’s issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with “Letter to the editor” in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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OPINIONS

Microaggressions have lasting consequences

Legacy of Japanese internment persists

By KAYLEE ZOU

It is a couple of weeks into my first semester at Hopkins when, out of the blue, somebody says to me, “Your eyes are so small.” Before I even have the chance to react, the topic changes and we’re talking about something else. Just like that, the moment passes. The conversation moves on. They move on. And I am supposed to move on too.

But it just doesn’t work like that. It can’t work like that.

It was stated to me like a fact, as if commenting on my eyes is the same as commenting on the color of my shirt or the brand of my shoes. There was no malicious intent, just a casual observation.

Both of my parents are first generation immigrants from China. I am of full Chinese ethnicity. My eyes are probably smaller than the average Caucasian, I thought. I told myself that I was not allowed to be sad over something that was not meant to hurt me in the first place.

But somehow, that innocuous comment about my eyes being small stuck with me.

I was a sophomore in high school the first time I seriously considered getting eyelid surgery to make my eyes look bigger. Rates of this surgery were and continue to be on the rise. My mom even told me she would pay for it if I really wanted to go through with it. I decided then that the summer before college would be the perfect time to go through with it. I could go through the bloating and healing process at home, and maybe nobody would ever find out. I could enter college with brand new, bigger eyes and start anew.

There was nobody specifically in my life at the time who was pushing me to believe that I needed to have bigger eyes, but I desired it intensely. When I was 15, I used to take a toothpick and trace over the crease of my eyelid everyday for a few months, thinking that it would deepen the fold and make my eyes appear larger.

Nobody explicitly ever said to me that I needed to have bigger eyes in order to be more attractive or more desired, but nobody ever needs to explicitly say that for Asian Americans and Asians all over the world to feel the pressure to have more Caucasian features. We absorb that pressure every single day through our casual interactions.

Growing up as an Asian American, I never saw anybody in the media that looked like me. Even the very few Asian newscasters did not look like me. Many of them had been pressured in the early years of their career to get the eyelid surgery in order to have more screen time.

Newscaster Julie Chen disclosed a few years ago that she was told by a former employer, “Because of your heritage, because of your Asian eyes, I’ve noticed that when you’re on camera — when you’re interviewing someone — you look disinterested and bored because your eyes are so heavy. They are so small.”

To be honest, I did not end up going through with the surgery simply because I had forgotten about the idea of it, not because I had come to some moment of empowerment and acquirement of self worth.

When somebody says to me, “Your eyes are so small,” it throws me back in time and I feel like a sophomore in high school again.

Even if it is not meant to be racist or harmful, these kinds of racial microaggressions passed off as nonchalant, harmless comments stick with people. The generations of oppression that Asian Americans have faced do not become forgotten just because time has passed. Even if it was not intended to be insulting, the pain that the decades of Asian Americans who were explicitly berated for having small eyes remains.

These microaggressions occur everyday without people noticing. These small, seemingly inoffensive comments perpetuate the marginalization of Asians in a way that is difficult to refute.

What does one even say to a friend who was just arbitrarily commenting on the size of one’s eyes? It may not be open bigotry, but it is a subtle form of marginalization nonetheless, which is almost more dangerous because people can so easily brush it under the table.

But what you say to other people always matters, especially when you could be potentially perpetuating the racial marginalization that has - for centuries.

Kaylee Zou is a freshman Writing Seminars and computer science double major from Boyds, Md.

By MORGAN OME

On Feb. 19, 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, enacting the removal and incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese descent on the West Coast. This past Sunday marked the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the annual Day of Remembrance for the internment of Japanese Americans.

The anniversary could not come at a more relevant and momentous time in our nation’s history. As we grapple with a new administration’s policies, we must watch out for the racial prejudice that characterized the internment experience.

As a fifth generation Japanese American, I’ve grown up surrounded by stories of the internment camps. My family was imprisoned at Tule Lake, a camp in Northern California. My grandfather was just six years old; my great-aunt was two and my great-uncle was four.

It always shocked me how innocent civilians were uprooted and forced to live in horrible conditions, in barracks and in deserts around the country. And I wondered: How could America have failed its own people to such a terrible extent?

Appalling events in American history often are the result of unfounded fears. During World War II, there was no evidence that Japanese-Americans posed a threat to the United States, yet people cited national security as the justification for interning all people of Japanese descent.

Similarly, people of Muslim faith do not pose a threat to the United States, yet some claim that an immigration ban is necessary to protect the country.

Using military necessity as a front for racial discrimination is a mistake. The U.S. government it-



COURTESY OF GAYLE OSHIMA
Ome’s grandfather, age six, and his family were interned in Tule Lake, Calif.

self has admitted this. As a result of pressure from the Japanese-American community, President Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which granted financial reparations and an official apology to those who were interned.

“These actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage documented by the Commission, and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership,” the document states. It goes on to say, “For these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.”

The passage of the Civil Liberties Act was a step forward for our nation. And we continue to progress. It heartens me to know that today, federal courts are fighting the executive order and protesters continue to voice their opposition against the immigration ban. This shows that we are in fact living in a better, more just America than the one my family lived in 75 years ago.

But that doesn’t mean the internment experience cannot happen again. In fact, *Korematsu v. United States*, a historic

case examining the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, was never overturned. So even though we say “never again” to the internment camps, there is a real possibility something similar could occur in the future.

That is why we must be vigilant in protecting the civil rights and liberties of all people, particularly those who are targeted and scapegoated. That is why I will continue to stand up for Muslim Americans, for those affected by the travel ban and for all of those unjustly made the victims of prejudice.

I never imagined that a day would come when I would need to fight for the rights that my family was denied. But here I am, 75 years later in 2017, doing exactly that. I often find myself reflecting on the legacy of internment.

It is part of my heritage and my history. It has characterized my complicated relationship with our nation and our Constitution. But moreover, it has made me determined to ensure that the discrimination and injustice my family and many others faced is never repeated.

Morgan Ome is a sophomore Writing Seminars and Italian double major from Hillsborough, Calif. She is a member of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The National Endowment for the Arts should be protected

By GILLIAN LELCHUK

As the days go on, it seems more and more likely that the Trump administration will eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in order to divert the money elsewhere. Regardless of whether or not this actually happens, the fact that the Office of the President would put forth such an idea is extraordinarily alarming.

The NEA is certainly not a waste of money. First of all, the money spent on the NEA is such a miniscule part of total government spending that eliminating the program seems more hateful than productive.

Additionally, the NEA di-

rectly and indirectly creates a more colorful and cultured America. They offer grants to programs that create works of art defined as dance, literature, theater, visual arts and so much more. Art permeates our society in a grander scale than many conservative thinkers seem to think it does.

Money from the NEA might help fund the after school drama program that a future Academy Award winner attends everyday. It could help a summer camp buy the art supplies that might lead the next great artist to his paintbrush.

The fact that the NEA is under threat of attack is offensive and deeply disturbing. It turns my involvement in college theater into an act of daily resistance. No, the Barnstormers is not funded by the government,

but we are funded by an institution that has been known to follow suit when the government enacts certain harmful policies (see: the University’s investment in fossil fuels).

If the NEA is eliminated, I worry that schools like Hopkins might allocate less and less money to arts groups. When the highest governmental body says something is not important, other institutions might follow suit. And that means less money and fewer resources given to theater groups, dance groups, a cappella groups and all of our incredible arts groups and programs.

When thousands of people protested the Muslim immigration ban at airports across the country, I remember thinking I wasn’t doing my part. I couldn’t go to BWI to lend my body, my voice and my support because I spent my week-end interviewing directors for the Barnstormers’ musical, *Spring Awakening*. I remember feeling like I should be doing something to show Trump and his supporters that I won’t back down.

But then I realized: My determination to produce a musical this semester is, in itself, an act of dissent. When I make theater and art the most important thing in my life, I am protesting. I am resisting. I send the message that I think art is important to this country. And I know I’m not the only one who feels that way.

I guess now I feel a certain responsibility in my role as producer. I have to put on a good show, not only for the sake of the incredible actors and technicians involved, but

also because I’m looking to prove something. Musical theater is not a waste of my time, my actors’ time or my designers’ time. And, I promise, it’s not a waste of any audience member’s time either.

What can you get out of musical theater as a member of the audience? It probably doesn’t seem obvious at first, because the role of audience member is inherently passive. You sit still for two hours and watch a show. Maybe you recognize how much fun it is for the people who threw that together, but most likely you don’t realize how much hard work has gone into the production and that it might be the best and most important thing for so many people.

But even if you know nothing about theater, even if you just wandered into the seat, even if you proclaim that you “hate musicals,” there’s something in the theater for everyone. Plenty of shows will leave you with incredible insight about class systems or gender roles or politics.

Other shows might just brighten your day. And maybe once in a while you will see one and walk away with nothing, but I tend to think those shows are a rarity.

I’ll leave you with this: Participate in and consume art. Consume it voraciously. Read books and watch plays and go to museums and prove to the president that art is important to this country and that art is not a waste of money.

Gillian Lelchuk is a junior Writing Seminars and mathematics double major from Los Alamitos, Calif. She is the Opinions Editor.

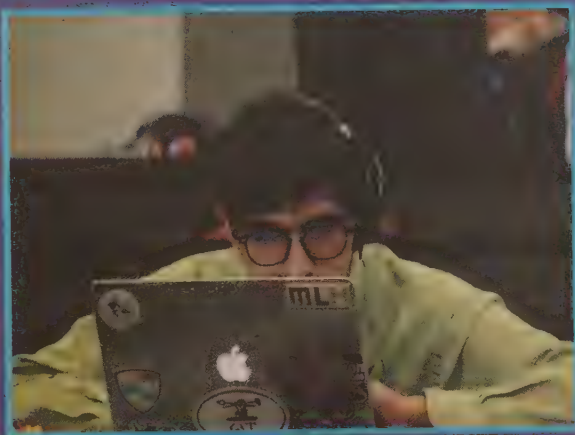


PUBLIC DOMAIN
Lelchuk is producing the Barnstormers’ *Spring Awakening*, in part, to protest Trump.

PHOTO ESSAY

Blue Jay Hackers

Photos Provided by HopHacks



THE B SECTION

NL

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS



Arts & Entertainment

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YOUR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 23-26

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

A Night of Japanese New Wave and Obscure, The Crown, 10 p.m.

Enjoy three plus hours of Japanese tunes and video projections at the Crown Back Bar, as well as a free pool table. Free.

Friday

Mushroom Inoculation Workshop, Real Food Farm, 12:30 p.m.

Do you like to grow plants? Are you worried about what you will eat when our food system inevitably collapses? The Baltimore Orchard Project has got you covered. Learn to grow your own mushrooms and take your very own mushroom log home with you after the class. \$15

Bike Party on the Red Carpet, St. Mary's Park, 6:30 p.m.

It is once again time to ride and party through the streets of Baltimore city, this time dressed in red carpet attire, whatever that might mean to you. Free.

Saturday

Small Foods 2017, American Visionary Art Museum, 6:30 p.m.

Register ahead of time or create a door entry in a contest housed at the American Visionary Art Museum to see who can make the very best miniature food for the grand prize of a giant can of miniature corn! DJ Landis Expandis will be in attendance this year! \$5 for competitors, \$10 for non-competitors. All profits go to Moveable Feast.

Fascism 101 Workshop, Baltimore Solidarity Center, 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Come learn about what fascism actually is, what its consequences are and how we can work against it along with the rest of the Baltimore community. Free.

Sunday

The Book Thing Drive, 3020 Vinyard St., 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

If you have missed The Book Thing or just what it stood for, now you can do something to help get it back on its feet! It is accepting donations of books, records, CDs and DVDs. Volunteers are needed to stamp and sort donated materials. A Peabody Heights Brewery site is open Wednesday and Friday 5-9 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.

By VICTORIA LYONS
For The News-Letter

Ice cream? Check. Salads and sandwiches? Check. Tacos, hummus, arepas, chicken, sushi, coffee, doughnuts and cookies? Check. Cozy study spots? Check. And the list goes on.

R. House officially opened to the public on Dec. 8. Since then, it has been my go-to spot for all kinds of activities: studying, a good cup of coffee, a casual lunch or a nice dinner.

Located in Remington, R. House provides Hopkins students with the perfect easy off-campus jaunt. It's only a short 10-minute walk from campus but feels extremely different from anything you might find in Charles Village. It's a great place to escape the Hopkins bubble during a busy week.

Home to places such as the classic coffee shop Charmington's, the eclectic Papermoon Diner, the butcher shop and restaurant Parts & Labor and the taqueria Clavel, Remington was already a must on the bucket list of any food lover in Baltimore.

R. House adds another unique dining experience to the neighborhood. It's located inside a huge converted warehouse, which gives it a great modern-industrial vibe.

R. House is part of the rise of the food hall in Baltimore. Food markets in cities like New York,



COURTESY OF VICTORIA LYONS

The space in R. House is full of diverse dining options and a great variety in the types of seating offered.

Boston, Chicago and San Francisco have already demonstrated the concept's popularity, and we're next.

Other popular food halls in Baltimore include Lexington Market, Belvedere Market and the Mount Vernon Marketplace. R. House is the first one in the immediate Hopkins area. R. House boasts 10 different vendors with a variety of options from burrito bowls to chicken sandwiches to Korean barbecue to a fully-functioning bar.

After much deliberation, I would say my favorite stand would have to be Little Baby's Ice Cream with their delectable and unique flavors like Smoked Cinnamon, Peanut Butter Maple Tarragon and Birch Beer Vanilla Bean.

Another cool option at R. House is the Pop Up. This space is reserved

by local restaurants for week-long increments so that they can try out experimental dishes.

The most recent inhabitant of the space was Big Mama's Asian Kitchen, a restaurant with a location in Fells Point. The manager explained to me that they wanted to try out their newest noodle bowl recipes in the space before deciding to serve them at their official location. He sounded very excited about the unique opportunity the Pop Up provides for Baltimore-area restaurants.

I was also impressed by the size of the space and the sheer number of seating options. I can't tell you how many times I've gone to a café off-campus only to find it completely packed without a seat in sight.

Even at its busiest times, R. House is large enough to guarantee

you'll find a spot somewhere, either on a couch, at a high-rise table or in a booth. There are even child-sized tables with miniature chairs to accommodate its youngest patrons.

One customer I spoke with, who was visiting Baltimore from San Francisco, said that R. House was one of her favorite places in Baltimore. She particularly praised the healthier options R. House offers and said it was nice to find a place to get food quickly without resorting to fast food.

Another customer explained how the new food hall addresses the challenge of accommodating big groups at restaurants in Baltimore.

You'll want to keep coming back to try out R. House's seemingly endless options. It will be a staple of the area for many years to come.

Exploring Remington's role in Baltimore's history

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Editor

As in many east coast cities, every place in Baltimore has history. From the manor houses in its parks to its many row homes to its rivers, every part of the city has a story to tell. The nearby neighborhood of Remington is no different.

In the relatively short period of the three and a half years I have been at Hopkins, Remington has undergone a huge transformation.

Part of my perception of this, of course, is that since my freshman year, my attitude toward Baltimore has changed quite a bit.

My feelings notwithstanding, it is a fact that Remington both has changed and is changing. At the moment, these changes seem to be good for the community. New businesses are giving people reasons to go to Remington; those same businesses are giving longtime residents more resources within their neighborhood, and rent hasn't risen too much yet.

I am not going to talk too much about whether the changes in Remington are good or bad in this article. Rather, this seems to be a good moment to note the changes that are occurring in a neighborhood that is adjacent to our campus and that is affected by Hopkins leadership as well as Hopkins students, and to think about the story of Remington as a whole.

Much of the information in this article comes from *The Sun* and from *Beyond The White Marble Steps: A Look At Baltimore Neighborhoods*, as well as Baltimore city resources and the Mobtown Shanks blog.

Remington is named after landowner William Remington, who owned property near the center of what makes up modern-day Remington. The neighborhood is bounded by West 22nd Street, Sisson Street, Wyman Park Drive and Mace Alley. Fun fact: It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

When Remington grew, it grew in the nineteenth century as a part of the manufacturing in Baltimore that relied on the waters of the Jones Falls to run mills and factories. Train lines and jobs brought workers and their families into the city and into Remington, especially in the late 19th century.

Many of the rowhouses you will see as you walk its streets were built in the early 20th century, specifically in the 1910s to 1920s.

A fun thing to do as you walk the streets of Baltimore is to look at the row houses and identify what type they are. The homes in Remington are mainly marble and daylight row houses.

Marble row homes have flat or slightly curved fronts and will typically have decorated stained glass and mosaics, while daylight row homes have many windows to maxi-



AUSTIN KIRKCC-BY-2.0

Grist mills like this one used to be a large part of Remington's economy.

mize the amount of light in each room. There are many other types of row homes as well. Charles Village sports several types within its limits. The Baltimore Chop has a decent reference guide on them, and there are many other resources if you are curious about row houses.

Back to the story: Remington, as you might have seen if you've visited it, is a predominantly white neighborhood. Although it is historically blue collar as well, its composition has seen many shifts since its beginnings. Now students live there as well, along with many other people of various backgrounds.

These changes have occasionally produced animosity. Even now in some Remington establishments, while people are friendly, students definitely stick out like a sore thumb.

People have worried about changes in rent and culture as well.

One odd blip in Remington's history was the near coming of Walmart. Yep, that's right, we almost had a Walmart in

Remington.

The proposed superstore was a part of the proposed 25th Street Station development, which after much contention, was scrapped as of 2015.

The 25th Street station might have helped connect the historically isolated Lower Remington with other parts of the neighborhood, although as some accounts would have it residents were some of the most outspoken critics of the development.

R. House is but a larger part of the larger pattern of change in the neighborhood. Remington is strongly beginning to resemble Hampden is a part of a trend of upscale food markets in Baltimore City. Some have associated developments such as this with gentrification, although others have welcomed it.

While change is generally divisive since it can be hard to see where it is going all the time, Hopkins students should continue to branch out to explore what Remington has to offer.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

One (anti-)romantic Oscar shorts spotlight varied animation styles guide to the arts

By NIKITA
SHTARKMAN
For *The News-Letter*

Valentine's Day is a holiday that can cause wildly varying emotions. To some, it is a celebration of love. It is a sacred day filled with warm, sweet emotions that swell and bubble inside. To others, it is a terrible reminder of their inability to find the right partner. In going through the day, I was inspired to write out some choices of entertainment that can help on both ends of the spectrum.

For those in love, making a Valentine's Day playlist is very easy. Musicians are most inspired by the powerful feelings that come with love. Within any given genre, there are thousands of albums centered around relationships. While everyone is entitled to their own opinions, I believe that R&B is undeniably the soundtrack to the purest love.

Being able to play some great music is a phenomenal confidence boost, and having a good go-to playlist of smooth, sweet, soulful R&B is a game changer in a relationship. In my opinion, the king of relationship music is currently D'Angelo. All three of his projects are great music to casually put on

in your room while talking to that special someone. He also makes great music for lovemaking. The track "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" is pure sex.

There are other obvious choices. Marvin Gaye is at the center of all great relationships. While I already wrote a glowing review, I want to take some time to again reinforce how good *Yes Lawd!* by NxWorries is. It's a great piece of music to listen to casually with a significant other.

One more note about the "romance" playlist: The intensity of the songs should be very tightly monitored. I have a specific moment on my playlist that distinguishes the relaxed section from the pointedly sexual part — it's the moment that "Or Nah," the Ty Dolla \$ign collaboration with The Weeknd, Wiz Khalifa and DJ Mustard, comes on.

The best television for a romantic evening with a loved one is undoubtedly some sweet, not-too-raunchy sitcom. Dramatic television requires too much concentrated attention, while shows like *The Office*, *Parks and Recreation* and *Modern Family* are great conversation sparkers and quick routes to inside jokes.

Reality television is another sleeper pick. There's

SEE ROMANCE, PAGE B4



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

The Oscars are not all big-budget movies, plasticized celebrities, nauseating self-adulation and well-founded accusations of racism.

There are awards given out both for the less sexy aspects of movies — which are usually the most interesting — and for short-form films. These latter awards tend to be more conceptual and artistically focused; They are a brief medium, and the creators can express themselves with an energy equal to that mobilized for a feature length film.

Short films are remarkable works of art. I am telling you this so that I do not sound like a sad husk of a man when I tell you that, this weekend, I went to the Charles Theater to see the Oscar Nominated animated shorts.

Entering the theater, I had never heard of any of the films, but it seemed likely that neither had



TYLER/CC-BY-SA 2.0

Computer animation film studio Pixar, based out of Emeryville, Calif., was represented by two films.

most people, film studies majors and industry professionals aside. Indeed, my naive enthusiasm may have been dampened slightly had I known that one of the nominated films came from the most evil of empires: Disney. Nonetheless, each of the five nominees proved worth seeing in its own right.

Borrowed Time:

The first film on the roll was *Borrowed Time*, the pet project of Pixar animators Lou Hamou-Lhadj and Andrew Coats. The short tells the story of an old-west sheriff's turbulent trip down a very bloody, nihilistic memory lane. Being a Pixar movie, *Bor-*

rowed *Time* is incredibly beautiful; the visual realism makes an unrealistic world seem tangible while still maintaining the caricatured elements of animation.

Plot-wise, *Borrowed Time* is extremely dark for a Pixar film, but I was not completely enamored with the story. It had substance, but it was not as compelling as I would have hoped, although this may have to do with the fact that I have the emotional depth of a contact lens. Regardless, *Borrowed Time* is an incredibly stunning visual achievement.

Pearl:

It is possible that this film did not air second, but we shall press on. *Pearl* was directed and written by Patrick Osborne, a Disney animator who won Best Animated Short Film in 2014 with *Feast*. Apparently, *Pearl* was created within the format of Google's 360-degree witchcraft, but it is not possible to tilt a movie theater

around, so I did not notice that.

With regards to animation, *Pearl* was perhaps the least astounding, although it was far from ugly. The entirety of the film is set in a small car, which hosts a father-daughter duo through the years.

Somehow, using the car as a fixed setting makes the film more interesting. It leaves questions unanswered by placing some distance between the viewer and characters but maintains vulnerability through spatial intimacy. *Pearl* is steeped in music, and the soundtrack works with the story to wondrous effect.

Blind Vaysha:

Courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada and Bulgarian animator and artist Theodore Ushev, *Blind Vaysha* is likely the most visually unique of the nominees. The animation is done in the style of linoleum block-cut, meaning the lines are sharp and errant, with

SEE BALDWIN, PAGE B5

Temps d'Afrique wows in local competition

By BENJAMIN PIERCE
For *The News-Letter*

On Saturday, Feb. 18, Temps d'Afrique (TDA), the only African dance team at Hopkins, placed third in the annual Unity African Dance competition sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Established in 2005, Temps d'Afrique is dedicated to showcasing the diverse artistic styles within the continent of Africa as well as the African diaspora.

The competition was held in Richmond, Va. at Acca Shriners temple and featured seven teams from universities around the mid-Atlantic, such as the University of Delaware, George Mason University (GMU), American University and Delaware State University.

At the beginning of the event, when Temps d'Afrique and other competitors were ushered in, the crowd was silent except for a few polite claps. By the end of the night, when the team took the stage in the third round, the arabesque arches of

the Shriners temple reverberated with the cheers of the sold-out crowd.

The competition featured three judged rounds: "Freestyle" featured songs of the teams' choice, "Diaspora" demonstrated the broad influence of African music across the globe and the final round was comprised of songs picked by the judges. TDA made it through all three elimination rounds to finish as second runner up.

TDA has been tirelessly practicing — daily, in fact, since before the start of the spring semester. As a result, each set combined intricate choreography and maneuvers. After the first round the host remarked, "Wow, Johns Hopkins."

Another said, "You guys definitely had the best formations."

Those tight formations were a product of a strict practice schedule, as junior Jasmine Okafor said, "We trained for two weeks straight. We would practice two hours every morning and two hours every night. With school and work, it was mentally

and physically exhausting."

But the practice paid off, as Temps d'Afrique became a crowd favorite.

The show also featured guest performances including VCU's own African dance team whose show ended with a confetti cannon before the final sets. Soon after, Temps d'Afrique huddled together as the host announced the four teams that made it to final round. TDA was the second team to be named, and the members erupted in cheers and hugs, which didn't last long: The judges had chosen TDA to open the final round.

Taking into account possible elimination, the team was not yet dressed for the final round, so members ran towards the stage with their costumes in tow and quickly changed in the hallway. There were murmurs that TDA went last in the second round and didn't have time to recover and breathe before another seven minutes straight of high-energy dancing.

During the final performance TDA captain, senior Kemi Oguntola, ran towards the front of the stage and jumped up about four feet in the air intending to land in a death drop position (bending one's leg to land on the cal). As she came down her foot slipped on the confetti causing her to land on her tailbone.

The team ran forward and picked up her immobile body, holding her up by the arms. The concern was actually part of the routine, but with the misstep it seemed she might not be able to continue. On the intended beat she came to life and hit her moves like nothing happened. She pulled off the routine with such vigor that no one seemed to notice she had injured herself.

After the final round, the four remaining teams gathered on stage and the host announced Temps d'Afrique came in third to the cheers of newfound fans. The battle for first was between two dance teams that had already won before. In the end, George Mason's Black Mambas won, and a huge portion of the crowd from GMU cheered them on.

After the competition, Captain Kemi told team the team, "I'm really proud of you guys. We definitely made a name for ourselves when we come back next year."

The second Temps d'Afrique dance showcase will happen on April 15 in Shriver Hall at 7 p.m. The event promises to be filled with the same energetic dances with a dose of magical visual effects.

Comedian McQueen discusses personal trials

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

If you've seen *Black Mirror*, imagine the improvisational skill of the comedian who powers the animated blue bear Waldo in real time. Now add that to the most strangely absurd and yet hilarious comedy imaginable.

We're talking well past *Adventure Time*, pushing Adult Swim's most out-there shows. Be sure to add plenty of music, voice impressions and wacky original characters, and you've got the content of McQueen Adams.

Adams, a musician and comedian who performed at Otisbar last Friday, is becoming renowned for this distinctly bizarre style that he creates in his live performances, and last week I got to ask him about where it all comes from.

"It's a soundtrack to my weird mind," Adams said. "I grew up in a house where people played instruments, and I did not. I guess my ear was my instrument. I would watch stuff and just try to mimic it, and from that and my love of music I would start creating these scenarios that didn't exist."

He said that his imper-

sonations, which range from fictional characters like Gandalf to celebrities like Matthew McConaughey to the likes of Vladimir Putin, develop organically as he creates situations in his mind.

However, despite the undeniable humor that accompanies these unexpected and absurd mash-ups of characters, Adams said that he isn't a comedian.

"I love comedy, but I don't consider myself to be a comedian," he said. "I guess it's comedy, but I knew that I wanted to do something that was my own thing, and that's what I've tried to create. I just wanted to create my own niche and do my own thing."

Adams said that he was still evolving his craft, pointing out that even small details such as whether he sat or stood during his act affected the development of the material. His material develops when his experiences in the real world give him ideas for new impressions or scenes to work with.

"The beauty of this is, just like standup, it's always evolving, always getting stronger and better because you're getting

SEE MCQUEEN, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF BENJAMIN PIERCE

The Temps d'Afrique dance team performs during the third annual Unity African Dance competition.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Lindsay Lohan vs. Hilary Duff: A Retrospective

Kyra Lesser
KIKI LEAKS

What is a rivalry? Is it a shared hatred between two people? Is it showing up to your winter formal to find that you're wearing the same dress as the girl you swear you saw flick a booger onto a Bunsen burner that one time in chemistry? Or is it pushing your sibling into the ocean while he has his pants on and your family is supposed to catch their flight back from California in two hours?

I'm no expert on rhetoric or linguistics or chemistry or men, but I do think that all of these apply to the definition of "rivalry." However, one relationship — one dynamic duo of divas, one pairing of prissy prima donnas — defined what it meant to be frenemies in the 2000s. I'm not talking Brit Brit and Xtina. I'm talking Hilary Duff and Lindsay Lohan. Let the battle royale begin.

Before I go on, let me state the obvious: Both of these girls had a constant, Big Brother-esque conglomerate controlling their every move. No, not their mothers (we'll get to Dina later). The House of Mouse, aka Disney, was the driving force for these two budding starlets' careers.

Movies: Ms. Duff's first movie of the 2000s was game-changing Disney Channel Original Movie (DCOM) *Cadet Kelly*. Although it was a made-for-TV film, *Cadet Kelly* was Hil's first method of abandoning her Lizzie McGuire persona while somehow staying true to herself on the same television channel. If you don't remember the image of HDuff dancing with scarves at her progressive high school in the opening credits, who even are you?

Hilary's movie career continued with roles in *Cheaper By the Dozen*, *Raise Your Voice* and, wait for it, *A Cinderella Story*. A solid lineup for Ms. Duff, but it was no com-

JINGDIANMEINV/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Hilary Duff reached an unprecedented level of success in the 2000s due to her backing by Disney.

parison to what Lindsay was doing in the cinema world.

Lohan also started off her aughts film career with a DCOM, although not as revolutionary of a flick in my opinion. *Get A Clue* is good, don't get me wrong, but all I remember about Lindsay in this movie are her sunglasses. Still, Lindsay shook the earth down to its core with her slew of films afterwards: *Freaky Friday*, *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen* and Lohan's magnum opus, *Mean Girls*. Give LiLo the Oscar already, dammit!

Lindsay 1 – Hilary 0.

TV: What Ms. Duff is probably best known for, her truly career-defining moment, was a little show that premiered in 2001 on the Disney Channel entitled *Lizzie McGuire*. Now, it was no *That's So Raven*, but *Lizzie McGuire* tackled some huge issues: bra shopping, mute children and the appropriateness of wearing a bedazzled bandana.

Lizzie kissed the sweet, sweet lips of Aaron Carter for god's sakes! She even had Bitmoji 10 years before it was a thing. Boom. Now, let's look at the other side of the coin. Lindsay was on one episode of *That 70's Show*. Yikes. Hilly takes this round.

Lindsay 1 – Hilary 1.

Music: This is quite possibly the most difficult round for me to decide on. And hopefully, dear reader, it is for you as well. I'll start with Lindsay. In 2004, Lindsay gifted our inferior human race with the album *Speak*. From its Avril Lavigne-inspired pop-punk cover to its sugarcoated beats, *Speak* is unparalleled. Featuring the song "Rumors,"

a song devout fan, Hopkins senior Jane Morris, refers to as "a luxury," *Speak* cemented Lindsay as not just a singer, but a superstar.

Hil, on the other hand, dropped *Metamorphosis*, a crowd favorite in my childhood home. On her hit track, "The Math," HiDu croons, "If you can't do the math, then get out of the equation." Get out of the equation indeed. I've got to give them both a point here.

Lindsay 2 – Hilary 2.

Relationships: This category has multiple facets. I won't just be looking at romantic relationships, but also familial. Hilary had a pretty tame dating life throughout the early 2000s. She was linked to a few lovers, including Joel Madden (now married to Nicole Richie), to spice up her good girl image.

LiLo, on the other hand, takes the cake. After her infamous "sex list" was "leaked" in 2014, the public learned that Lindsay had been with megababes such as Justin Timberlake, James Franco and even Joaquin Phoenix?!

But let's bring on the real drama. HilBil, to this day, has a loving and supportive family. Her sister Haylie even joined in on the fun in

2004 with Duff sister hit "Our Lips Are Sealed."

Now, let's honestly pour one out for Lindsay Lohan's family. Her father, Michael, is a money-hungry, self-indulgent, overly-tanned kumquat of a human. Her mother, Dina, is also a money-hungry, self-indulgent, overly-tanned kumquat of a human. What a surprise that their marriage was the equivalent of Eddie Murphy's rap album.

Lindsay's sister, Ali, attempted to make a career for herself as well (no thanks to Dina) and instead became a failing model in Taiwan. And yet, as heartbreaking as Lindsay's family life may have been, it's safe to say that she definitely has not been affected by it at all and is a sober, happy and sane woman nowadays... right?

Lindsay 3 – Hilary 2.

Lindsay Lohan most recently starred in a London West End production of the play, *Speed-the-Plow*.

So what can we gather after all of this extensive data has been put on the table? With a final score of Lindsay 3 – Hilary 2, we can finally put to rest that Lindsay Dee Lohan owned the early 2000s, and not even Hilary Duff can take that away from her. Forever may she reign.

Up-and-coming Artists Playlist

By Dubray Kinney

1. "Feels" by Wolftyla
2. "Anita" by Smino
3. "Culdesac" by Merlyn Wood
4. "The Greatest" by KING
5. "Sleeping Bag" by Shakewell
6. "For the Love" by Angie Rose & OnBeatMusic
7. "Oofda" by The Last Artful Dodgr with Neill Von Tally
8. "Wrong for You" by Molly Burch
9. "Block 4" by Kim & King Los
10. "Drinking Games" by FEWS

(Anti-)romanticism is the post-Valentine move

ROMANCE, FROM B3

nothing better to talk over than some random reality TV shows. My personal favorite is *Chrisley Knows Best*, a pointless, aimless show about a millionaire family that does insane things. Every episode concludes with some greater moral about family life, pulled out of thin air.

Movies are also great to set the mood. I really recommend *Moonrise Kingdom* from Wes Anderson. I feel like it's the perfect casual romantic film. It has comedic elements, some sweet drama, a general feeling of nostalgia and a sweet, innocent romance.

I understand that it is much simpler to pick a film. Picking something slightly quirky and off kilter with themes of love and romance is a bolder, and more interesting step. Wes Anderson is perfect for that. His quaint, cute cinematography and scene direction will undoubtedly impress both you and your loved one.

That should be a recipe for a great day with a lover.

Now for the other end: how to handle a sorrowful, lonely day... That play-

list is much more complex and varied. Some of us enjoy lingering on the pain and hurt of past love.

One of my best friends from high school made a long playlist dedicated to a girl that he loved, which included music that they listened to together. He used it to pore through his emotions. A dreary, sad playlist can definitely help with coping.

Quiet, painful indie can be great for playlists like that. The sweet high voices of artists like Bon Iver, Fleet Foxes or Sufjan Stevens are tearjerkers. Some more electronic but nonetheless equally emotionally wrought, music can be found in The xx's catalogue. Majid Jordan fits somewhere on that spectrum as well.

There are others who deal with lack of love in a more aggressive, angry way. If you are the type to pull all of your frustration out through passion and then fall back into normal life, rap is the way to go.

Dr. Dre, the Game, YG — all of the West-Coast artists have a great (but slightly hedonistic) worldview that can do wonders with confidence. In Houston, many

artists (Z-Ro, Trae the Truth, etc.) have a similar mindset, ignoring romantic love while focusing on materialistic gain. I'm not saying that this is the proper way to deal with emotional suffering, or the proper mindset to have generally, but it does help at the time of greatest pain.

Albums of choice for some of these artists are The Game's *The Documentary* as well as its sequel *Documentary 2.5* (with key songs like "Step Up" (featuring Dej Loaf and ShaSha) and "Up on the Wall" (featuring Ty Dolla \$ign, Problem and YG). YG's album, *Still Brazy* (which was ranked the third best rap album of 2017 by the Arts Section) is another safe bet in his strong discography. Songs like "Why You Always Hatin'" (featuring Drake and Kamaiyah) and "Who Shot Me?"

Dr. Dre's array of classics stretch from *The Chronic* to his most recent album, *Compton*, which features the crazy pseudo-posse cut "Genocide" (featuring Kendrick Lamar, Marsha Ambrosius and Candice Pillay). Or you could look back at any one of his songs that

were forming for hip-hop entirely, like "Still D.R.E." (featuring Snoop Dogg).

For heartbreak, movies and television shows unrelated to love are perfect. Comedies can be phenomenal, lifting you up from the blues into peaks of laughter. For a contemporary pick, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* is a great, depraved choice.

The show is hilarious and irreverent. Also, watching almost anything by Eric Andre can bring me near to tears. Movies with dense, thick atmospheres are also good, pulling you out from the pain of normal life into the tumultuous world of someone else. Stuff like *Saving Private Ryan* or *Dead Poets Society* can be good watches in times like these.

So there you go. Here are a couple of ways to deal with the rough-and-tumble forest that is romance. Shows like, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and maybe even some of the musical options here, give you alternative romantic options.

Hopefully this helps at least one moping sap or one sweet couple missing that special spark.



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Lindsay Lohan starred in films like *Freaky Friday* and *Mean Girls*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar shorts range in theme and genre

OSCARS, FROM B3

a deep contrast between shadow and light. The film is like a moving piece of Fauvism: immensely colorful and nonsensical shapes consume the screen.

Blind Vaysha is based on a fable by Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov. It is about a girl, Vaysha, who can see the past out of her left eye and the future out of her right. As a result, Vaysha has no perception of the present, which, when you really think about it, is pretty terrifying. *Blind Vaysha* certainly wins points for having an original story, but at the end of the film the viewer is beaten over the head with the story's moral. That put a damper on the film's metaphoric value, but *Blind Vaysha* is good nonetheless.

Piper:

The empire has struck back. Disney, obviously not content with the vice-grip their evil tentacles hold on so much of the film industry, helped produced this Pixar short. Their efforts seem to have paid off since it's up for an Oscar. Evilness aside, *Piper* is yet another impressive work by Pixar. This short stays true to Pixar form, starring a cute bird and an equally adorable hermit crab.

Piper, which was written and directed by Pixar animator Alan Barillaro, follows a sanderling chick as it navigates the perils of hunting for food between the fluctuations of the surf. In case you don't know — and why would you — a sanderling is a type of bird that feeds by plucking aquatic invertebrates

out of the sand on a beach. *Piper* probably would have been more enjoyable for someone in possession of a soul. Still, the animation is stunning; The animals and their environment are represented in vivid detail, down to the minute movements of their feathers.

Pear Cider and Cigarettes:

Despite the fairly innocuous title, this short animated documentary is equal parts *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and *Stand By Me*. Directed by Canadian animator and graphic artist Robert Valley, the plot recounts Valley's relationship with his friend Techno Stypes. Techno is a charismatic individual with a unique ability to cause himself extreme physical harm. The plot of *Pear Cider* is probably the most compelling. It lacks any of the romantic or saccharine frills of the others, focusing instead on hard-drinking, sexually explicit and drug-abusing truth.

Valley's animation stands with Ushev's as one of the more unique amongst the nominees. Stylistically, Valley is influenced by Gorillaz animator Jamie Hewlett. The influence is evident — characters have a similar long, shadowy quality — but Valley's style is his own. Being that *Pear Cider* already won an Annie, an award given out by the Los Angeles branch of the International Animated Film Association, it seems to be the most likely to win an Oscar. Then again, I have absolutely no idea what I am talking about.

Poet Tyler Gregson discusses Typewriter Series

By KATHERINE LOGAN
For The News-Letter

Poet and photographer Tyler Knott Gregson is best known for his Typewriter Series, which began in 2012 when he stumbled upon an old typewriter at an antique shop and was inspired to type out a poem with it. Since then, Gregson has posted one typewritten poem each day, with the recent addition of one haiku on love per day, gradually gaining a significant social media following in the process.

He currently boasts over 310,000 followers on Instagram and over 43,000 followers on Twitter. I recently had the privilege of corresponding with Gregson via email regarding his inspirations, his faith and his creative process.

According to Gregson, he showed an interest in exploring a variety of different faiths at a young age. When he discovered Buddhism, its teachings influenced not only his creative work but also, in a broader sense, the way he viewed the world around him.

"I fumbled my way into Buddhism when I was about 12 years old, after my Dad returned from a baseball trip to Saudi Arabia and brought me home a book called *The Teaching of Buddha*," Gregson wrote. "I was a bit of an odd kid; I loved spirituality and reading and learning more about different faiths from a young age, and when I found Buddhism, I was instantly home."

Gregson explained that he felt more compelled toward internal contemplations.

"I've always been drawn to silence, as well, and the internal world that seemed to keep rising to the surface of everything I did, and Buddhism was such a perfect tool to help explore that in myself," he wrote. "I think if more people, in more places, practiced Buddhism, the world would be in a much different place than it is right now."

Another key source of inspiration for Gregson is the natural landscape that surrounds his home in the city of Helena, Montana.

"The natural world has always been massively important and influential to me. Always. I would say Montana is responsible for that seed of wonder that was planted in me that never seemed to stop growing. I love living

what I had just done. It was super cool for me."

He also identified "Weird Al" Yankovic and David Bowie as having influenced his career and his ideology about artistic expression.

"It was about people telling me to do what you love," Adams said. "Don't follow the same path that other people do, carve your own because, win or lose, fail or succeed, you'll know what you did was true to you."

Adams said he'd faced a number of bumps in the road, but he didn't give up because he was committed to his art.

"I went up to Edinburgh, and I had never done the show live ever in my life," he said. "I was working with a partner who couldn't come, but I had to honor my commitment. The first two weeks



TYLERKNOTT/CC-BY-SA-4.0

Poet Tyler Knott Gregson is releasing his latest collection of poems, *Wildly Into the Dark*, on March 28.

creatures, whether they breathe, bleed, grow or even respond to the sunlight," Gregson wrote. "I love them all, and I treat them all with a reverence and joy. I think this comes out in the inspiration for me finding so much love in so many places. I joke, often, that animals are better than people, more pure and true, and I do know that I feel much more myself when in the presence of wild animals, than I do in groups of people..."

Gregson doesn't really believe in the label of "writer," but rather sees creating poetry and taking photographs as means of finding internal peace.

"Honestly, I don't even know what being a writer is supposed to be," he wrote. "I don't consider myself much

of anything other than someone who has a lot of noise in my brain, and writing and photography just happen to be the ways I can make them quiet awhile."

One figure whose words played a role in leading him to write his own poetry was Walt Whitman.

"There are certainly poets and pieces of literature that have inspired me to write my own words, and I keep circling back around to Walt Whitman. His poetry was the first body of work that made me realize that there were people that saw the world as I did, that it was acceptable to find miracles everywhere and fall in love with the world. I still feel an immense gratitude to Whitman for that. I

think I always will," Gregson wrote.

Perhaps no one is more surprised at the success of the Typewriter Series and Gregson's first two collections of poetry than Gregson himself.

"I have never written FOR anyone, only writing to quiet the noises in my head, and I never intended for anyone, anywhere to read what I wrote. I am blown away every single day that anyone cares to read it, that anyone shares it, that anyone pays attention. I feel fortunate and beyond lucky that people wish to see what I'm up to. I never

saw this coming," he wrote.

While some might imagine it must be difficult for Gregson to find the motivation to publish

at least one haiku on love and one poem for the Typewriter Series on a daily basis, he wrote that finding the words isn't difficult; Rather, it's sharing them that is more burdensome.

"The motivation has never been the problem for me. I've always said I will keep writing until the words just don't want to come anymore, and that is still true today. The only part that sometimes feels challenging is the physical routine that comes along with the writing... the actual typing, scanning the paper, uploading the photos to my website and phone each day. It's not the writing that's the tough part, it's the logistics of sharing those words with everyone," he wrote.

Most of Gregson's poems are written in the form of direct-address. In other words, he is speaking to "you." According to him, this can represent a variety of different people, both imagined and real.

"I think the 'you' has evolved, morphed, and grown over the years, and continues to. Some poems are certainly painted in the exact colors of real people, some poems are about the person that they will one day be, the person I will one day be, and some are about who I always knew I'd find and be willing to wait for," he wrote.

Gregson also provided a description of his own mind.

"I always kind of think of my mind as this giant pot that a million ingredients get tossed into, swirled around, boiled, and then served out whenever I write or practice art. I never know the individual in-

gredients once it's out of me, but I certainly know their flavors," Gregson wrote.

Part of what makes Gregson's love poetry so poignant is the manner in which it confronts our tendency to reject the notion of feeling too deeply when it comes to romantic involvement, whether it be out of cynicism or fear of rejection. For Gregson, there is simply no such thing as loving "too much."

"I think 'Too Much' is a nasty thing that everyone treats as a curse, and as an annoyance, but I think there is a common thread for all those who believe in 'too much' and it's that they are those who have never had enough," he wrote. "I think the whole point of our time on this planet is to give too much, love too much, see too much, hope too much, and spread all that around, too much. If that makes me a romantic, then I am one, proudly."

Fans of Gregson's work can expect to see an even more vulnerable side of him in *Wildly into the Dark: Typewriter Poems and the Rattlings of a Curious Mind*, his latest collection.

"I am more excited about this new book than the first two combined, in all honesty. This book will be the most intimate by a landslide, as I was able to choose every piece that was included in the book. I was able to choose pieces that reflect how I feel on more subjects, in more ways, and I am thrilled that people will get to see a bit deeper into what goes on in my mind. I think if people liked the first book, they will enjoy this one as a much more intimate slice of who I am," Gregson wrote.

His advice for students interested in pursuing a creative path is to focus on the area of their craft that most excites them.

"The only advice I can possibly offer is to find what you're passionate about, and pursue that aspect of whatever art you're choosing," he wrote. "I've seen so many people wish to be writers in a generic sense, but never know what it is they are passionate about, and the words always stop coming. Find the passion first, the true burning passion inside, and then worry about how to display it, share it and make a career of it. Even creative jobs, highly creative and innovative fields, can become painful if it's something your heart is not behind. Find the passion, then chase it."

Readers can follow Gregson on Instagram and Twitter (@tylerknott) and pick up a copy of *Wildly into the Dark: Typewriter Poems and the Rattlings of a Curious Mind* on March 28.



BOUNGAWA/CC-BY-2.0

Alan Barillaro's Pixar short, *Piper*, has received recent critical acclaim.

McQueen Adams pokes fun at social norms

MCQUEEN, FROM B3

new pieces to put into play," he said. "When I first started, it was me figuring out the pace and the heart of all of this. What makes it work, what doesn't work. I'm just constantly writing and doing the voices and putting stuff together, and it's a process."

He also said that he has to mediate what he says sometimes, and that despite how bizarre many of his sketches are, there is often social commentary to be found in them, especially recently.

"Now, especially, there's definitely commentary with what's going on in the world," Adams said. "I try to be careful because I go to a lot of places where people don't share my mindset. I've been places where people don't want

to hear about what's going on right now, but I try to skate as close to that line without getting beat up at a show."

This mediation seems somewhat at odds with Adams's philosophy, indicating that the artist has yet to find sure enough footing to be confident and open with the messages in his show. He cited Robin Williams as an influence because of the late comedian's freedom.

"When I was a little kid I met Robin Williams," he said. "He was eating and I knew, as a little kid, who he was, so I went up to the window and started licking the window. He turned to me and I thought he was upset, so there was that moment where I was crushed. And he literally mimicked me doing

what I had just done. It was super cool for me."

He also identified "Weird Al" Yankovic and David Bowie as having influenced his career and his ideology about artistic expression.

"It was about people telling me to do what you love," Adams said. "Don't follow the same path that other people do, carve your own because, win or lose, fail or succeed, you'll know what you did was true to you."

Adams said he'd faced a number of bumps in the road, but he didn't give up because he was committed to his art.

"I went up to Edinburgh, and I had never done the show live ever in my life," he said. "I was working with a partner who couldn't come, but I had to honor my commitment. The first two weeks

were nightmarish, but I honored my commitment, and I knew it was something I wanted to do in my life. Find out who you are through trial and error and don't give up."

Adams ended the conversation by talking about his childhood pet, offering a potential explanation for his absurd comedic style.

"I had a fox when I was a kid," he said. "My mother sent my father to the pound to get a dog and he came back with a fox. It was house-trained, and that was my pet growing up. It's weird as hell, but that explains my personality."

To get more of Adams's distinct brand of unconventional humor, keep an eye out for his upcoming Comedy Central show *Heads Will Roll* on Snapchat.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



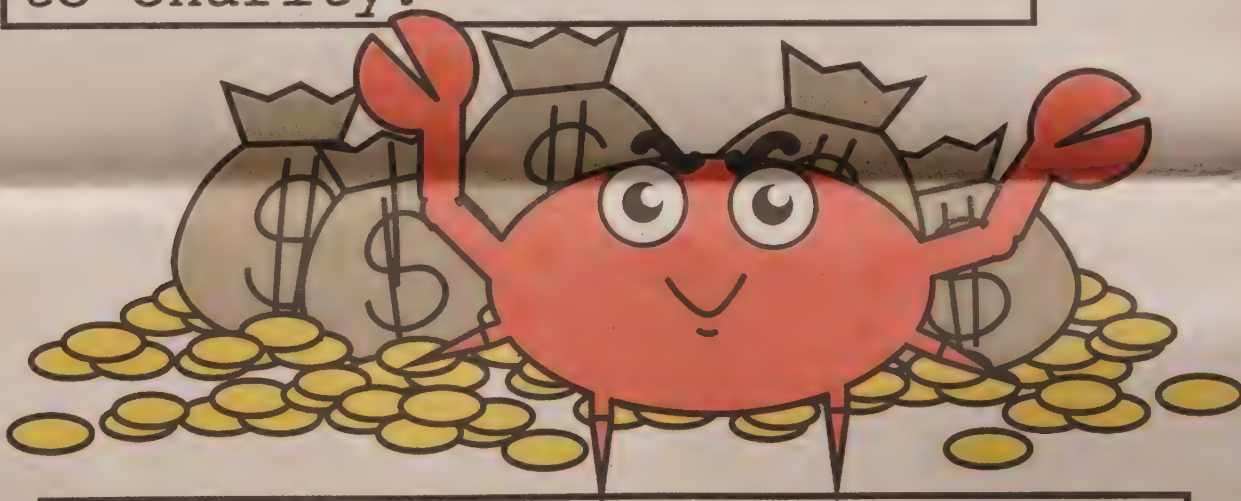
Hey There Kids!

By Stephanie Herrera

100%

DAD JOKES*"A Vintage Nantage"*

Q. Why do crabs never give to charity?



A. Because they're SHELLFISH!!

DO YOU HAVE SOME
COMICS THAT ARE

OUT OF THIS WORLD?

SUBMIT YOUR STELLAR CREATIONS TO
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Students participate in three-day hackathon

By **PAIGE FRANK**
Asst. SciTech Editor

This past Friday, 300 entrepreneurs, coders and engineers marched into Hodson Hall to begin a weekend-long event called HopHacks. HopHacks is a semesterly event at which students work on a team to create, or hack, a new app, device or idea. Attendees came not only from within the Hopkins community, but also from other universities.

The event involves workshops, a keynote speaker and then hours and hours of hacking. Students must work within the three-day time period to complete their project. At the end, first, second and third place prizes are given out to the top three projects produced. Students from any university are eligible to participate. For those coming from outside of Hopkins, food is provided throughout the event as well as places to sleep.

The event culminates



COURTESY OF SIMON ENAGONIO

The SpeechPortal team won first place at HopHacks for creating an app that helps users memorize speeches.

with presentations and demonstrations from the top 10 projects as well as the recognition of the first, second and third place winners. Some of the projects in the top 10 included devices like MAVI, a mobile assistant for the visually impaired that helps its

user with everyday tasks such as knowing when to cross the road.

Adaptive Aud.io and Viano were two other top-10 devices. Adaptive Aud.io is an app that turns down the volume of music playing when people are speaking and then returns the volume to normal level when conversation stops.

Viano was awarded an honorable mention. The app generates new classical music for the user. Other devices included a text translator to convert foreign comics into English and EyeSee, a device that can identify objects and read text.

Prize money was awarded to the first, second and third place winners. Third place went to Threatsync, an app designed to compile threat-

ening Internet security information for companies to enable cooperation in the battle against malicious internet IPs.

The second-place winner was Nexus, an app that helps to find mutual connections among entities such as companies or influential people. The app analyzes large data sets to find as many common connections as possible.

First place went to an app called SpeechPortal. The app is designed to aid those hoping to memorize speeches by utilizing a virtual world, memory cues and occasional reminders, and it won the grand prize of \$1,024.

SpeechPortal was created by a team of four students. In total, the

SEE HACKATHON, PAGE B9

Time spent outdoors may improve vision

By **ANNA CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

Some Hopkins students might have grown up with long afternoons spent doing homework in their rooms instead of playing outside. Sure, that hard work has played an important role in bringing students here today, but those who must wear glasses or contacts to see the blackboard at the front of the lecture hall might be interested to hear that nearsightedness has recently been linked to the amount of time spend indoors as children.

In a study conducted at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, a team of researchers led by Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Greg Schwartz discovered a cell in the retina whose dysfunctions can lead to myopia.

Myopia, a condition more commonly known as nearsightedness, is caused by overgrowth of the eye. When the eye grows to be too long, light that comes into the eye through the pupil and lens is focused in front of the retina instead of directly on it. Because of this, images from far away are blurry to an individual with myopia.

Myopia is very common. More than 30 million people in the United States, or one third of the population between the ages of 12 and 54, are affected by myopia. World-

wide, over a billion people are known to have the condition.

Unfortunately, myopia incidents are only on the rise. In the 30 years between 1970 and 2000, nearsightedness increased by 66 percent in the U.S. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of myopia cases across the nation increased by four million, as reported by the National Eye Institute (NEI). The NEI also projects that by 2050, there will be more than 10 million more cases of myopia than today.

What Schwartz and his research team found can offer one explanation for this upward trend.

From prior studies, scientists know that the retina contains a signal that regulates eye growth during childhood, a stage in development that is essential in determining a person's vision in adulthood. The eye needs to stop growing at exactly the right moment to ensure that the images collected by the eye can be properly focused on the retina. However, it was unknown which cell was responsible for the vital role of regulating eye growth.

The newly discovered retinal cell, which Schwartz named "ON Delayed," is potentially the missing link. It is highly sensitive to light and sends signals to a neural circuit that dictates and controls the

SEE EYESIGHT, PAGE B8

Fossil sheds light on reproductive evolution

By **ELAINE CHIAO**
Staff Writer

Professor Jonathan Aitchison, head of the University of Queensland's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, recently proposed a theory that, if proven true, would revolutionize established archaeological models and deductions.

Aitchison suggested in a recent report that a 250 million-year-old *Dinocephalosaurus* fossil discovered in China provided strong support for live birth, contrary to the previous belief that the group only reproduces by laying eggs.

Although live birth has commonly been attributed as a trademark to exclusively mammals, it is also a regular occurrence among certain reptiles such as lizards and snakes. The definition of "live birth" does, however, vary quite a bit between the two types of vertebrates.

For mammals, the fetus develops in the uterus until it has absorbed enough nutrients to survive outside the mother's womb. For reptiles, on the other hand, the offspring must first grow inside an egg within the mother's body before they can hatch and emerge without the shell.

It wasn't until the discovery of an ancient fossil in China that scientists and archaeologists alike realized the possibility of a third group of animals

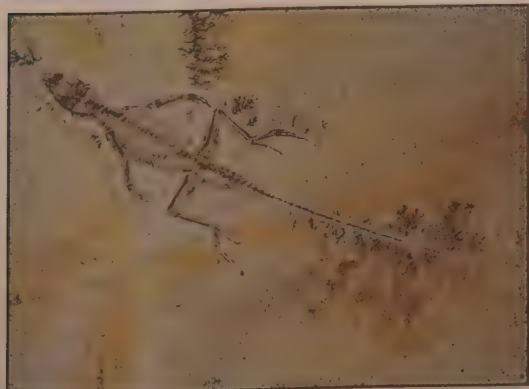
that experienced live birth. The fossil appeared to be a "terrible-headed lizard" that showed an embryo inside the mother. In reality, the fossil structure of the creature resembles that of an archosauromorph, which is a long-necked marine species that primarily dominated the South China Sea during the Middle Triassic Period.

Information on reproductive biology of archosauromorphs before the Jurassic Period was scarce up until this discovery. In fact, prior to the discovery of this lizard species, scientists believed for generations that land vertebrates such as birds and crocodiles are not capable of other forms of reproduction. Laying eggs is thought of as a primitive but only reproductive strategy for such species.

Professor Jun Liu, who is currently the lead researcher of this field working at the Hefei University of Technology in China, explained that he and other fellow researchers were excited upon first exposure to this fossil specimen.

"Further evolutionary analysis revealed the first case of live birth in such a wide group containing birds, crocodilians, dinosaurs and pterosaurs, among others, and pushes back evidence of reproductive biology in the group by

SEE FOSSIL, PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN

A fossil proved that evolutionary ancestors of reptiles gave live births.

Hopkins senior engages in multiple sclerosis research

By **KELSEY HARPER**
For *The News-Letter*

After barreling through a detailed explanation of her neuroscience research — throwing a "remyelination" here and an "endogenous oligodendrocyte" there — senior Hayley Strasburger casually mentions, "Oh, I came in as a history major."

Strasburger is now a neuroscience major, and for the past three and a half years, she has intently studied multiple sclerosis (MS) in the Calabresi lab at the Johns Hopkins medical campus. She never would have started research (or even neuroscience in the first place) if it hadn't been for Professor Stewart Hendry's "Introduction to Neuroscience" course she took during her freshman fall.

After taking just a single class, neuroscience had her hooked. Eager to dive in, Strasburger began to look for research opportunities the following spring. Despite the breadth of neuroscience research available to her, she knew what she wanted to study: multiple sclerosis.

"My grandmother had MS, so I'd always known about it, but I didn't really understand what it was until this neuroscience class," Strasburger said.

So, Hendry guided her to the Calabresi lab, which explores how the immune system interacts with the central nervous system (the brain and

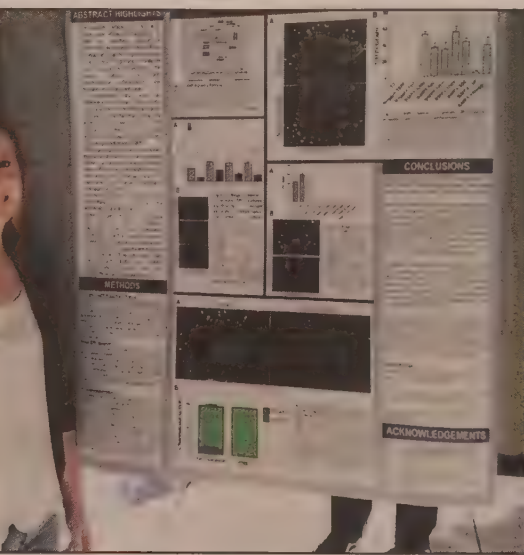
spinal cord) in MS patients.

Through her work in the Calabresi lab, Strasburger began to expand her knowledge about MS and how it affects the nervous system. Everything happening right now in the human body — blinking, breathing and reading this article — is

thanks to neurons. These cells link together to send signals throughout your body and are the core component of the central nervous system.

Each neuron has one axon, a long extension that branches off and connects with other nerve cells. The wire-like axon rapidly sends chemical and electrical signals, but not without the help of myelin, a fatty insulating material that forms a 'sheath' around the axon. In MS patients, the myelin coating is damaged, and the cells that make it, oligodendrocytes, are killed off by the patient's own immune system.

Although no one knows the cause, the effect is well understood. Without myelin, your



COURTESY OF HAYLEY STRASBURGER

Strasburger presents her research poster on axon myelination and multiple sclerosis.

body's signals are slowed or halted, resulting in the wide range of symptoms seen in MS patients: fatigue, dizziness, depression, speech problems, headaches, seizures, etc.

Patients with the most common form of MS called "relapsing-remitting MS" can regrow oligodendrocytes and repair some of the damage done between their MS attacks. Patients with the rarer form of the disease, progressive MS, experience slow, continual degradation of their myelin.

Despite this knowledge, there are treatments available only for relapse-remitting MS, but even those have numerous side effects like rashes, worsened depression and flu-like symptoms. There are no treat-

ments for people who, like Strasburger's grandmother, have progressive MS.

So the questions on many MS researchers' minds are "What causes MS?" and "How can we help patients' bodies repair myelin?" Strasburger's work at the Calabresi lab focuses on the latter, looking at how the body naturally encourages more oligodendrocytes to grow and produce more myelin (in relapse-remitting patients) and how that process can be stimulated to happen faster in progressive MS patients.

"They center on how the immune system interacts with the central nervous system in MS patients, particularly seeing if they can encourage

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

Toshiba's Chairman to Resign after \$6.3 Billion Loss

Toshiba plans to write off 712.5 billion yen or 6.3 billion dollars and withdraw from the nuclear construction business. The chairman of the multinational conglomerate company, Shigenori Shiga, announced he will step down to take responsibility of the losses.

Toshiba's billion-dollar losses were related to its acquisition of Westinghouse, an American nuclear energy company. The Japanese company faces a cost overrun from its subsidiary. Toshiba's managers experience scrutiny for the company's poor financial decisions and devastating investment.

Under pressure to stabilize its balance sheet, Toshiba started selling shares and considers offering a majority in its successful memory chip business.

Intel Ends Sponsorship to Science Fairs

Last year, Intel terminated its long-term sponsorship for the national Science Talent Search. Now it is also stopping its sponsorship to the International Science and Engineering Fair. The nonprofit group, funded by Intel back in 1997, is searching for a new sponsor. Intel will officially stop supporting the International Science and Engineering Fair in 2019.

All in all, Intel contributed about 45 million dollars a year to university programs. In 2015, it promised to donate 300 million dollars to diversify the workforce. Intel did not explain why it dropped the sponsorship. It currently does not support any other STEM program.

Algorithm Accurately Predicts Autism Diagnosis in Children

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recently developed a deep learning algorithm that accurately predicts high risk infants' chance of being diagnosed with autism.

There is an association between diagnosis of autism and some form of brain enlargement. The neuroimaging study explored the children with high familial risk of autism and discovered that those diagnosed with autism had an increased cortical growth rate at 6-12 months. The study used a deep-learning algorithm that uses surface area information to predict diagnosis of autism. The algorithm has an astounding 81 percent correct prediction with 88 percent sensitivity.

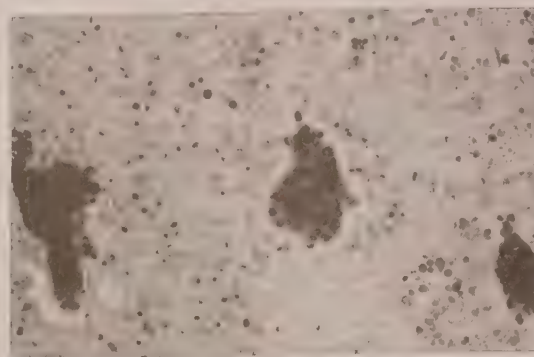
Elon Musk's SpaceX Launches Rocket

On Sunday, Elon Musk's SpaceX became the first private space firm to launch a rocket at a NASA facility. After a setback on Saturday which was believed to be technical problems, Elon Musk called off the rocket launch. The launch resumed the next day.

The rocket, the SpaceX Dragon supply ship was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, delivering cargo to the International Space Station. Moments after liftoff, SpaceX confirmed the rocket was safely in orbit. The rocket is estimated to arrive the station on Wednesday.

The rocket launch success overshadows the failed launch attempt last September when an explosion occurred on the launch pad, damaging the rocket and its cargo.

Extracellular vesicles can act as biomarkers



ED UTHMAN/CC-BY 2.0

Molecules outside the cell may show pancreatic cancer development.

By JOAN YEA
Senior Staff Writer

Formerly dismissed as mere by-products from cellular metabolic activities, extracellular vesicles are now regarded as potential biomarkers in diseases such as pancreatic cancer. These vesicles transfer nucleic acids, proteins and lipids, resulting in modifications of both parent and target cells. In the case of tumor-derived extracellular vesicles, target cells are changed so that they comprise an environment favorable for tumor invasion and growth.

Not many disease-associated extracellular vesicles, however, have been identified, and even those that have been linked to diseases have not been widely used in clinical settings due to the lack of a rapid detection technology. To expedite the analysis of extra-cellular vesicles, researchers led by Tony Hu, an associate professor at the Bidesign Virginia G. Piper Center for Personalized Diagnostics, have developed an alternative detection method based on nanotechnology.

Their nanoparticle-based assay, unlike conventional assays, requires only a small sample — one microliter — and functions even with unprocessed blood plasma. The high specificity and sensitivity of this detection technology is attributed to the use of two nanoparticle probes, which are coated with antibodies for a specific extracellular vesicle. The binding of both probes by a particular vesicle produces a plasmon, which can be visualized with a dark field microscope.

To test their assay with a disease-linked extracellular vesicle, the researchers chose to investigate the levels of tumor-derived Ephrin type-A receptor 2 (EphA2) in patients with pancreatic cancer. While pancreatic cancer remains one of the most noisome illnesses, there are currently no diagnostic biomarkers, and cases are often not discovered until the illnesses is at advanced stages when the resection of the tumor would not be possible.

The only biomarker that is used clinically for pancreatic cancer is the carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA19-9), yet its use is limited to monitoring the progression of pancreatic cancer and the response to treatment. According to Hu's research team, however, CA19-9 is actually a much less discriminatory biomarker than EphA2 in differentiating pancreatic cancer cases in earlier stages, such as stage 1 and 2.

Utilizing the new detection method, the investigators compared CA19-9 and EphA2 levels among healthy control subjects, pancreatitis patients, and pancreatic cancer patients

diagnosed with stages 1 or 2. EphA2 levels in these pancreatic cancer patients were found to be significantly higher than those in normal subjects and in patients with pancreatitis.

CA19-9 levels, however were not significantly different for the early stage pancreatic cancer patients relative to the other two groups.

EphA2, unlike CA19-9, was able to distinguish these early stage pancreatic cancer cases, despite the low biomarker levels apparent in the early stages of the disease. According to the researchers, as stated in their online journal article published in *Nature Biomedical Engineering* this month, EphA2 may serve as a much-needed diagnostic biomarker for pancreatic cancer. EphA2 may also provide a more reliable way to monitor the progression of the disease.

With a mouse model, the research team was able to observe the positive correlation between EphA2 levels and the development of pancreatic cancer over time. As EphA2 levels seemed to be highly indicative of the size of the pancreatic tumor, the researchers observed how the number of EphA2 molecules would reflect treatment response in pancreatic cancer patients. Plasma samples were collected from 23 patients before and after treatments such as chemotherapy.

For the patients who responded favorably or at least partially so in response to the therapy, the number of extracellular vesicles significantly decreased. On the other hand, patients with a poor response to the treatment did not have significantly lowered EphA2 levels. CA19-9 levels were also measured in these patients and found to not differ by much before and after the treatment even for those patients with favorable responses.

The sensitivity of EphA2 molecules combined with the specificity of the nanoparticle-based assay indicate the potential of this biomarker and technology to be applied in clinical settings. Although the researchers relied on light microscopy to examine the biomarker levels, it is expected that an automated system would be constructed to perform the assays in a clinical context.

The investigators acknowledged that they will need to perform larger prospective studies and more imaging studies and biopsies to confirm these results for EphA2 levels and pancreatic cancer. Moreover, the ability of the nanoplasmon-based assay to serve as a medical test may be additionally confirmed with other diseases, provided that their unique, extracellular vesicles, have been identified.

Examining motor learning in classical piano



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

As a developing neuroscientist and an amateur concert pianist, I have found that the arts and the sciences perfectly complement each other. In fact, playing piano requires many of the analytical skills needed for science.

As a musician, you are presented with the

composer's score (the raw data). The score provides you with a hint of how the piece of music should be interpreted. Just as different artists each have a different approach to interpretation, different scientists will interpret the same data differently to reach unique conclusions.

What most fascinates me is how neuroscience can supplement classical piano training with very practical tips and tricks. Much of piano is motor learning. Applying what is already known in the learning and memory field of neuroscience to piano yields several effective ways of speeding up the learning process.

When individuals

learn a new motor skill, they have to first go through a laborious process in which they have to break down the motor skill into small steps and learn to execute those first steps. Every little movement requires effortful conscious thought.

Eventually, as individuals acquire the motor skill, they begin to perform the task in a more automatic manner less characterized by conscious effort. This automatic execution is often referred to as "muscle memory."

Calling it "muscle memory," however, is actually something of a misnomer. Rather, the automaticity has to do with the motor learning that takes place in the brain.

In order to execute a movement, several things need to happen. The movement has to be planned out, prepared and then finally executed. Each of these processes is handled by a specific brain region, and most of these regions are located in the front half of the brain (the frontal lobe).

It turns out that during the initial phase of motor learning, brain regions involved in planning and preparation are highly activated.

However, as individuals learn the task and move towards "muscle memory" execution, the planning regions no longer become active, and only areas involved in direct execution of the motor movement stay active.

This then suggests that the engagement of motor planning and preparation areas is crucial for refining the eventual pathways

that lead to execution of the motor movement.

Learning a new piece of music, therefore, is akin to learning a new motor task. The initial periods of sight-reading all the notes and laboring over individual notes are painstaking.

Yet it appears that this painstaking period is important and necessary for motor learning. Therefore, rather than rushing through it, a musician should actually do this part very carefully and methodically.

It may be that the more a musician engages the initial planning and preparation areas through slow practice, the

more robust the neural network becomes for the final execution.

This brings me to the next point: researchers have discovered that long-term motor learning actually involves structural changes in neurons, and this process is thought to be part of the mechanism that allows new information to stick around longer in the brain.

This means that if the pianist learns a piece incorrectly in the beginning, this incorrect playing will stick around for a long time, making it much more difficult to correct the mistakes.

Essentially, the "incorrect" neural network has to be wiped out, and the new "correct" network will need to be built from the ground up.

Therefore, it is much easier to just embrace the pain in the beginning and learn the piece correctly so that the "correct" neural networks are formed from the get-go.

Spending time outdoors could prevent myopia

EYESIGHT, FROM B7
process of eye growth.

Adam Mani, a postdoctoral fellow in ophthalmology at Feinberg and co-author of the study, used microscopic glass electrodes to observe electrical signals from the retina of mice in response to patterns of light on a digital projector.

With this technique, researchers found that the ON Delayed ganglion cell's unique light sensitivity becomes overstimulated by the indoor light spectrum, which has high levels of red/green contrast. This contrast creates artificial contrast images on the retina, confusing the ON Delayed cell to become hyper-activated and causing over-growth of the eye and myopia.

These results pose one factor that could play a

role in the drastic increase in myopia throughout the years.

With the rise of technology and indoor entertainment since the late 20th Century, children are spending much more time indoors, where they are exposed to artificial light with high levels of contrast. It is unsurprising that people today are more likely to suffer from myopia as compared to their counterparts decades before.

This study is part of Schwartz's mission to reverse-engineer the retina, identify all retinal cell types and analyze their neurological connections to the brain. He also hopes to understand their genetic component, promising research that could lead to the future use of gene therapy to treat blindness and other eye conditions.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sex of fetus influences mother's immune state

By AVERY GULINO
For The News-Letter

It is an old wives' tale that being pregnant with a boy is different than being pregnant with a girl. If a woman is pregnant with a girl, it is rumored she will have a wider stomach, more nausea and overall worse pregnancy symptoms due to a higher level of hormones.

Researchers are now finding that cravings might not be the only thing affected by the sex of a pregnant woman's child. There is now evidence to prove that the sex of a child can also contribute to a woman's immune response.

A study conducted by the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center showed that while a woman's baseline immune state remained the same, when prompted by a bacteria or infection, it would react differently.

Cytokine, a small protein that plays a vital role in immune response, dictates cell to cell communication during an immune response and can therefore direct cell movement to sites of inflammation. Women carrying a female fetus showed greater secretion of certain cytokines that promote inflammation.

In this specific study, Principal Investigator Amanda Mitchell studied 80 women throughout their pregnancies, testing their levels of cytokines and sex hormones.

Scientists tested the women's blood both before and after it was exposed to bacteria and found more pro-inflammatory cytokines in women with female fetuses. This may explain some of the symptoms currently attributed to women pregnant with females, such as a higher risk of asthmatic symptoms and other allergic reactions.

One woman, Melissa Fox, found that when she was pregnant with her second child, her first daughter, her pregnancy experience was wildly different. One of the most prominent symptoms of her second pregnancy was the return of her allergies, which she

had outgrown when she was younger.

"When I was pregnant with Wren [her daughter], it seemed like [my allergies] were kicking up and flaring up again to where I was having to take something on a daily basis," Fox said in a press release.

The symptoms Fox had are related to the increase in pro-inflammatory cytokines in her system, promoting swelling and inflammation of her eyes, airways and nose.

Pregnant women are often put into a category of people with weaker immune systems who must be taken special care of. According to a study by Dr. Gil Mor of Yale University, the immune system of a pregnant woman is generally viewed as weaker than if the woman was not pregnant.

While a woman's immune response may be different to certain diseases during her pregnancy, her immune system itself remains largely the same. The processes that occur during pregnancy simply make the process of the immune system much more complex, so once the system is challenged, differences occur.

More research into this field is needed for two reasons: First to determine exactly what this differing response means for pregnant women and how their prenatal treatment may need to change and, second, to understand the exact reasoning for this relationship. Knowing which hormones play a role in this relationship is necessary to understand how exactly to control the inflammatory response in pregnant women.

For example, knowing the reason for these responses may make cases like Fox's preventable, allowing her to take medications to mediate her inflammatory cytokines.

The first step to explaining this problem further is to do testing into the responses of the immune systems of pregnant women to specific diseases and observe the immune response. That way, preventative steps can be taken to increase prenatal care and maternal health.

Reproductive biology theory altered by fossil

FOSSIL, FROM B7

50 million years," Liu said. A factor that poses a significant challenge to the research team is that it is difficult to determine whether the embryonic species was food the mother had eaten or a fetus.

There was eventually a clue that eliminated the researchers' doubts upon more careful examination and inspection. The embryo inside the mother was of the same species as the mother, and it would be highly unlikely for the creature to swallow its own kind. In addition, the embryo faced forward inside of the mother's rib cage.

Traditionally, the predator would swallow its prey facing backwards in order to create a smoother transition for the movement of the prey down

its throat. This shows that the embryo most likely belongs to an unborn baby rather than the victim of a meal.

Professor Mike Benton from the University of Bristol was able to provide further insight into the study by revealing that there is no reason to suggest why archosauromorphs would be physically or reproductively incapable of giving live birth.

The research project brought together teams from various research backgrounds and countries, including China, the U.S., the United Kingdom and Australia.

Researchers in the field are still trying to further their understanding of the reproductive evolution of land invertebrates through additional in-depth collaboration and investigation.

300 students develop projects at HopHacks

HACKATHON, FROM B7

team spent almost 60 hours coding, testing and creating their final device. The device creates a virtual world based around items in the user's speech. As the user practices giving their speech they are taken throughout the virtual world. Visual cues become associated with lines of the speech expediting the memorization process.

Inspiration for the device came from the team's personal experiences.

"As a college student who has had to give speeches in the past to defend school programs and spread awareness about causes that were meaningful to me, I strongly believe that everyone should have the essential human ability to be able to speak to others," Kevin Chen, SpeechPortal team member, said.

He recognized that memorizing a speech is often difficult, tedious and boring and thus set out to create a better method.

"The app uses a novel webVR speech training

platform that operates around the concept of a memory palace (a technique that takes advantage of spatial memory), to make learning a speech easy, efficient and accessible for anyone with a smartphone," Chen said.

This was not Chen's first hackathon. He had participated in MedHacks, the Hopkins medical hackathon in the fall, as well as one other prior to the event, so he was well prepared for the circumstances.

Students participating in hackathons are at the location for the entire weekend, sometimes without leaving. Areas in the building are thus provided for sleeping throughout the event. Chen, however, has his



COURTESY OF SIMON ENAGONIO

Senior Richard Chen and freshman Aditya Murali celebrate after finishing their project.

own solution to find rest during the chaotic weekend.

"Bring a sleeping pad. Also, dedicated sleeping rooms can be hard to sleep in because of loud snorers, so my preferred solution is to just sleep in the room you're hacking in and then find some cardboard box to put around your head (to block out light and sound)," Chen said.

Chen and his team hope to continue their

project as they move forward. Plans include expanding the breadth of what the device can help with from memorizing speeches to memorizing molecules for a chemistry class or learning a new language.

Lastly, Chen has some advice for new hackers.

"Don't limit your creativity just because you don't have the right equipment or because you think you don't know enough to make it."

Senior shares experience doing neuro research

RESEARCH, FROM B7

young oligodendrocytes to mature using what's naturally in the brain," Strasberger said.

To this end, Strasberger conceptualized, designed and carried out her own project in lab. She had noticed that in a petri dish of young oligodendrocytes, many would mature into astrocytes, another cell of the central nervous system.

A special type of protein, bone morphogenetic protein or BMP, stimulates this "transdifferentiation" process, and MS patients actually over-

produce it.

Strasberger wanted to see if this excess BMP was forcing youthful oligodendrocytes to mature into astrocytes, which don't produce the myelin MS patients lack. Strasberger points to the development of her very own project as one of her biggest successes.

"It was one of the coolest things, just having my own ownership of data and experiments," she said.

However, it was also one of her biggest disappointments — she saw

success in her petri dish studies, but couldn't see the same effects in a mouse model.

Nevertheless, Strasberger is not discouraged and has already been accepted to a number of neuroscience Ph.D. programs for next year. She loves the freedom with academic research and enjoys that it's hands on and different every single day.

"You always have to be thinking of new ideas," she said.

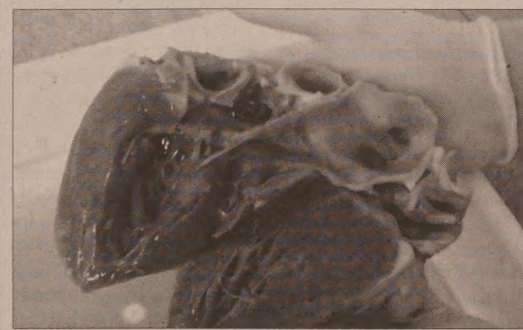
At the same time, she also thoroughly recognizes that she have a very

unique experience as Hopkins students.

"It's such a great place for undergrads to be doing research. I'm meeting a lot of people from other schools at these [grad school] interviews that didn't have this opportunity," she said.

And while not everyone will fall in love with research as much as Strasberger has, she's proven that you can step onto the Hopkins campus as a history major, have a true research experience and step off as a neuroscience Ph.D. candidate.

Cell surface engineering creates 3D heart tissue



THELEFTORIUM/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Researchers created a heart with three different cardiac tissues.

By ISAAC CHEN
For The News-Letter

Tissue and organ failure that arises due to injury or other forms of damage is a major health issue and has motivated tremendous interest in the fields of tissue engineering and artificial organ research.

Collaboration across multiple fields, such as cell biology, polymer chemistry and regenerative medicine have created an artificial tissue prototype that revolutionizes fields such as transplantation medicine and drug delivery research, just to name a few.

Actually generating 3-D functional cardiac tissue remains a challenge, however. The heart has a high cell density and comprises three different types of cells: contractile cardiac muscle cells, connective tissue cells and vascular

cells.

"Making in vitro 3-D cardiac tissue has long presented a challenge to scientists because of the high density of cells and muscularity of the heart," Dmitry Rogozhnikov, a Ph.D. student in chemistry at York University, said in a press release. "For 2-D or 3-D cardiac tissue to be functional it needs the same high cellular density and the cells must be in contact to facilitate synchronized beating."

Current techniques used to assemble 3-D tissue involves polymer scaffolds by trapping cells. Although this method is a huge advancement, it poses several limitations.

One limitation is that scaffold reduces the formation of cell junctions, a critical part of intercellular communication in

cardiac tissue. Cardiac tissues use cell junctions to send electrical signals to far away cells so that all cells beat in synchrony.

Professor Muhammad Yousaf of York University and his team of graduate students created the first scaffold-free 3-D cardiac tissue model that beats in harmony through the combination of liposome fusion, cell surface engineering and bio-orthogonal chemistry.

In their experiment, they harvested cardiac cells from newborn rats. Some of these fresh cardiac cells were then treated with a liposome reagent called ViaGlue. This ViaGlue strategy allows individual cardiac cells to click together rapidly to form stable, complex cardiac tissue.

Furthermore, Yousaf and his team tested two drugs known to affect heart rate, isoprenaline and doxorubicin, to both 2-D and 3-D cardiac tissues. Isoprenaline is a drug used to treat asthma and bradycardia (slow heart rate). Doxorubicin is a drug used to treat stomach cancer or leukemia.

Both tissues responded to the drugs in a similar fashion: increased heart rate when isoprenaline was applied and decreased heart rate when doxorubicin was applied. This result

showed that the scaffold-free 3-D cardiac tissue can react according to drug stimulants.

Drugs that diffuse across 3-D cardiac tissue needs to pass multiple layers of cells, whereas in 2-D tissue only one layer must be passed. If a drug causes similar reactions to both 2-D and 3-D cardiac tissue, then the drug shows strong implications that it can reach its intended target in a real-life scenario.

Yousaf and his team believe that their results will have a significant impact on autocrine and paracrine signaling studies and evaluation of tissue for drug screening.

"This breakthrough will allow better and earlier drug testing and potentially eliminate harmful or toxic medications sooner," Yousaf said.

In addition, Yousaf's research could further impact treatments for cardiovascular diseases. According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases are the leading causes of death in the world and about 175-million people died worldwide from cardiovascular diseases in 2012.

Yousaf has created a start-up company called OrganoLinX to provide ViaGlue to the public and even custom 3-D tissues on demand.

SPORTS

W. fencing wins EWFC Championship

By ESTHER HONG
Staff Writer

Last Sunday the Blue Jays took home the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference (EWFC) Championship trophy for the sixth time in program history. After finishing as the runner-up the past two years, Hopkins reclaimed the Championship title.

"I am so incredibly excited about our win," sophomore Celine Shanosky said. "We were disappointed when we came in second last season, and it feels so great to get our Championship back. I am also so proud of our captains, Katherine Couch and Nastasia Winney — seeing them win the championship their senior year made us all really happy."

The Jays came into the team competition with a strong start, recording a 26-1 victory over the Yeshiva University Macabees. Sophomore Rebecca Rosenthal and freshman Katherine Xiang tallied eight points for the Foil squad. Meanwhile, Shanosky, senior Katherine Couch and junior Mails Vignoud contributed nine points for the Epee squad, and sophomore ShiaoMeng Tse and freshman Alicia Tomaszewski and Erin Chen earned nine points for the Sabre squad.

Hopkins earned their second victory of the day against the Stevens Institute of Technology Ducks, the two-time defending champions. With wins in both the Epee and Sabre events, the Jays earned 16 points to the Ducks' 11. Shanosky, Couch and Vignoud each won two bouts for the Epee squad, and Chen recorded a 3-0 round for the Sabre squad.

"Going into the tournament, we were focused on defeating Stevens Institute of Technology," Shanosky said. "They are our main rival and have beat us out for first place the last few years. We were also concentrated on keeping up the enthusiasm throughout the day. The Championship is nearly a 12-hour tournament, and you have to be in it for the long run."

The Jays continued to run with their momentum by defeating the Hunter College Hawks 26-1. Followed by equally as dominant wins: a 20-7 victory over the Drew University Rangers, a 23-4 win over the City College of New York Beavers and a 23-4 win over the Haverford Fords.

Hopkins finished the day with one final team victory against the Vassar College Brewers. The Jays won 6-3 in the Epee event and 7-2 in the Sabre event. Shanosky, Vignoud and senior Nastasia Winney each won two bouts for the Epee squad, and Tse led the Sabre squad with a 3-0 record to earn the team the Championship trophy.

"Fencing is tradition-

ally an individual sport, and it is easy to let your personal losses get you down," Shanosky said. "But at this tournament, we all kept the team in mind, cheered each other on and stayed positive. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a supportive group of women."



HOPKINSPORTS.COM
Senior co-captain Katherine Couch

After the team competition, the top 16 fencers from each weapon throughout the day advanced to compete individually.

In the Foil event, Xiang went 1-1, finishing in fifth place and earning First Team All-EWFC honors. Rosenthal, also competing in the Foil, finished in 10th place.

After finishing in second place in the Epee event, Shanosky also earned First Team All-EWFC honors. She finished the individual competition with a 3-1 record. Couch accompanied her teammates and grabbed another First Team All-EWFC honors, going 1-1 to finish in fifth place.

Chen, entering her first EWFC Championship, became the first Sabre champion in the program since 2014's victor Isabella So. Meanwhile Tomaszewski and Tse placed third and seventh, respectively, in the Sabre event.

Collecting six Championship trophies, the Jays are tied for the winning the most EWFC Championships in Conference history. The team surpassed the Hopkins school record of single-season wins (19) from the 1999-2000 season, already tallying 23.

"We just became the winningest team in program history, so I have to say I am unbelievably proud of how our team performed," Shanosky said. "Two of our weapon squads won Top Squad of the Year, and six of our team members placed individually. We could not have won this championship without our collective resolve or enthusiasm."

At the competition the Jays earned EWFC Coaching Staff of the Year honors and Top Epee and Sabre Squad honors. Couch improved her number of career wins to 278 by the end of the day.

The Jays continue to prepare for the last of the season's upcoming championships.

"To prepare for the upcoming competition, our team is breaking off into weapon squads to discuss our performance and focus on what we need to improve. So much of fencing is a mental game, and keeping up our enthusiasm and determination is something that we are concentrating on as we end the season," Shanosky said.

The Jays next travel to West Point, N.Y. to compete in the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association Championships on Saturday, March 4.

In college hoops, March Madness awaits

NCAA, FROM B12

arguably the best front-court in the country. While Kansas is the Big 12's safest bet to reach the latter stages of the tournament, do not be surprised if West Virginia or Baylor catch fire and contend for a title.

The home to the remaining number one seed will likely be the Pac-12 Conference, where the University of Arizona Wildcats, University of Oregon Ducks and the University of California, Los Angeles Bruins are in a tight three-way battle for Conference supremacy.

The Wildcats, Ducks and Bruins have each shown flashes of brilliance throughout the season and are all built extremely well for the tournament.

Arizona and Oregon have had more experience and success in the tournament the past several years, but UCLA, led by phenomenon Lonzo Ball, has a player capable of taking over the game at any time.

Right now, it is difficult to say which of these teams is the best, but the Pac-12 Tournament should provide some clarity in a few weeks. If one Confer-

ence gets two teams into the Final Four though, my money is on the Pac-12.

Much like the Pac-12, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) is also a three-team race; in this case, the University of Kentucky Wildcats, University of South Carolina Gamecocks and the University of Florida Gators are the trio of teams fighting for supremacy.

Kentucky is always the Conference's predominant favorite and has two future All-Stars in freshmen Malik Monk and De'Aaron Fox to carry the team. South Carolina also has a special player in senior Sindarius Thornwell.

Florida may be the best of them though. Despite losing big man John Egbunu, the Gators are on an absolute tear. They are an experienced, balanced team that, under second-year coach Mike White's leadership, have shown they can run a team right out of the building. Case in point: their 88-66 demolition of Kentucky on Feb. 4.

All three of these teams are well equipped for the tournament, but the Gators very well may be the best of the bunch.

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the Big Ten round out the nation's major conferences, and they each have several teams capable of vying for a title.

In the ACC, the North Carolina Tar Heels and Louisville Cardinals are Championship contenders that are playing as well as ever. Meanwhile, the Florida State University Seminoles and the University of Virginia Cavaliers had strong starts to the season but have fallen off as of late.

The team to watch in this Conference though, is Duke University. The Blue Devils have been dominant since legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski returned to the team after undergoing back surgery. Furthermore there may be no team in the country that has more talent than Duke. With "Coach K" back on the sideline, Duke is in prime position to capture a sixth championship under Krzyzewski's leadership.

The Big Ten is having what is considered by many to be a down year. Purdue University and the University of Wisconsin are leading the way, with

the University of Maryland not far behind. These teams each have some worrisome losses that have put their abilities in question.

Additionally, the unexpected struggles of schools such as Michigan State and Indiana University have diluted the depth of what is normally one of the most competitive conferences in the nation.

Beyond the frontrunners, Northwestern University's performance has been a pleasant surprise and will likely qualify for its first NCAA Tournament in school history.

The Wildcats should be happy to win a game or two in the tournament, but should not be expected to make any real noise against the powerhouse teams.

As always, March Madness promises to entertain, due to the aura of uncertainty that surrounds each and every game.

Will Wichita State University play its way into the Final Four again? Can Florida Gulf Coast University have another magical run of its own? We'll get all of the answers in just a few weeks.

After Cousins trade, the Pelicans are a threat



Andrew Johnson
Sportpinion

The NBA is going small. Teams are prioritizing flexibility, athleticism and shooting over large bodies that can assert themselves over other players in the paint.

Just look at the Golden State Warriors, who routinely trot out their acclaimed "Lineup of Death" with 6-foot-7-inch power forward, Draymond Green, starting at center. The Houston Rockets have raced out to the third best record in the NBA after moving on from center Dwight Howard in free agency.

It remains to be seen if the Mike D'Antoni-led Rockets can be true Championship contenders. However, his Phoenix Suns teams of the early 2000s, led by point guard Steve Nash, were regarded as great regular season teams whose lack of size and defense would come to haunt them come playoff time. Those "Nash teams" could never get over the hump and make the finals, as they were routinely downed in the playoffs by the Tim Duncan-led San Antonio Spurs. Duncan's paint presence on both offense and defense gave the Suns problems, as he averaged a ridiculous 27.4 points and 13.8 rebounds per game in the 2005 Western Conference Finals.

However just last season, the Warriors and their D'Antoni-esque use of pace and shooting culminated in a NBA regular season record of 73 wins. Historically, if a team wanted to be a true championship contender, it needed a dominant center. Guards were the gritty sidekicks that helped you win championships, but were rarely regarded as a centerpiece. Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jab-

bar, Wilt Chamberlain, Hakeem Olajuwon, Shaquille O'Neal, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett are just a few of the centers who became the most decorated champions in NBA history.

However, over the last two decades, the NBA has become a guard and wing-dominated league. Shooting guard Michael Jordan ushered in the transition as he ascended the throne to all-time greatness. Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Kevin Durant have followed in his footsteps as explosive wing players who can defend, shoot and serve as true franchise centerpieces. The arrival of Golden State's Stephen Curry, the league's most polarizing and transcendent star, just a couple seasons ago signaled that the NBA is moving even smaller and prioritizing shooting touch from long range.

The meteoric rise of the guard has ushered with it the meteoric fall of the traditional big man. Deadly post scorers, like the Indiana Pacers' Al Jefferson and the Philadelphia 76ers' Jahlil Okafor, can barely crack an NBA rotation due to their lack of shooting and slow feet on defense; just two decades ago, both would have been the face of their team's offense.

However, over the past few years NBA fans have been treated to the evolution of big men suited to play in this day and age of pace, space and shooting.

Center Kristaps Porzingis of the New York Knicks offers the tantalizing shooting ability of a stretch four matched with the athleticism and defensive potential of a classic rim protector. Minnesota Timberwolves forward Karl-Anthony Towns Jr. can do it all, and at the age of 21 is averaging 23 points, 11 rebounds and 1.5 blocks, all while shooting 34 percent from three. Some of the greatest centers of yesteryear could barely hit 50 percent of their free throws, and some modern NBA centers still struggle with their shooting touch, to put it lightly (looking at

you Andre Drummond and DeAndre Jordan). The emergence of big men with the athleticism and shooting ability to stay on the court against small lineups has the potential to snuff out this era of small ball just as it is getting started.

Imagine if the Warriors' death lineup was forced to match up against a pair of big men who can shoot from a distance, defend the paint and rebound at an elite rate? The Warriors' best center is Zaza Pachulia, and despite the fact that he briefly dominated NBA all-star fan voting, no one would ever regard him as even an above average center.

If that above scenario has always been your fantasy, then look no further! The Sacramento Kings were gracious enough to gift center DeMarcus Cousins to the New Orleans Pelicans just days before the trade deadline, uniting the two best modern NBA big men on one squad.

Anthony Davis ("the Brow") and DeMarcus Cousins ("Boogie") are now sharing the court; "Boogie and the Brow" have the potential to form the most dynamic big man duo since Tim Duncan and David Robinson back in 1998. And that thought, for the Warriors, the Rockets and all the other small ball squads, should be terrifying.

Although the Pelicans currently sit with a 23-34 record, they remain just two and a half games behind the Denver Nuggets for the eighth seed in the Western Conference. In

order to acquire Cousins, the Pelicans were forced to ship off a large portion of their guard depth (Buddy Hield, Langston Galloway and Tyreke Evans). However, they retained a quality starting NBA point guard in Jrue Holiday and also added forward Omri Casspi, in the deal as wing depth. The Pelicans absolutely fleeced the Kings in this trade.

However, part of what made Boogie so attainable in the first place stems from on court outbursts and a lack of leadership and maturity, which have plagued his young career. But Davis and Cousins are close friends, stemming from their days at the University of Kentucky. While the Pelicans are by no means a complete team, they certainly possess the talent to ascend to the eighth seed by the season's end. If all else in the league standings remains the same, a tantalizing Warriors-Pelicans matchup will await NBA fans in the first round.

While I would not bet against the Warriors in that series, it would certainly be filled with compelling storylines. How would the Warriors deal with the Pelicans size? Could they play their best lineup against a Davis-Cousins tandem without getting abused on the glass? I really hope we get to find out in May.

If the Pelicans can add some quality guards and shooters during the offseason to put around this dynamic duo, New Orleans may be hosting some championship parades in the not so distant future.



WWW.FLICKR.COM/MICHAELTIPTON
Star center DeMarcus "Boogie" Cousins is headed to New Orleans.

SPORTS

W. Lax continues to win on the road



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior midfielder Haley Schweizer, finished the game with a hat trick.

W. LAX, FROM B12
her first career hat trick as a Jay. Meanwhile, Ibello tied her career high of four points and led the Jays in assists with two.

The No. 20 ranked Blue Jays, propelled by their season-opener win, traveled to Milwaukee, Wis. to face the Marquette Golden Eagles. The Jays had three different players tally three points against the Golden Eagles to put the Jays on top after being fiercely chased down during the final minutes of the contest.

Less than two minutes into the game, senior midfielder Haley Schweizer put Hopkins on the board with a free position goal to give the Jays an early lead. About four minutes later, junior attacker CeCe Finney took a pass from Kenul, doubling the Jays' lead.

After the Blue Jays and the Golden Eagles went back and forth, each scoring a single goal, the Golden Eagles went on a quick scoring run to tie the game at 3-3. With just under 17 minutes to play, the Golden Eagles scored back to back goals in just 21 seconds, stripping the Jays of their two-point lead.

However, the Jays responded with a scoring run of their own. Schweizer and junior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald scored a pair of free position goals, giving Hopkins a two-point lead over Marquette.

While the Golden Eagles were able to cut the lead in half at 6:51 to play, they were unable to defend against the Jays' duo of Schweizer and Fitzgerald, who once again scored consecutive goals in the span of 61 seconds.

M. Lax defeats Charles Street rival in O.T.

M. LAX, FROM B12
Loyola goalie Jacob Stover to tie it at 13-13 and force overtime.

In case anyone has not been on the internet in the past week, Blue Jay junior midfielder Joel Tinney likes fake passes.

After going viral on SportsCenter with his hidden ball fake that left Navy's goaltender on the Not Top 10 Plays of the Week, one would think that coaches would have prepared their team to combat such trickery.

Unfortunately for the Greyhounds, they did not catch on, and in sudden death overtime in front of a packed crowd

First to score was Schweizer at 5:01 on man-up for her third of the day. 61 seconds later, Schweizer found her teammate at the 30-yard line on a restart. Fitzgerald cut directly to the cage, receiving the pass and scoring her second goal of the day.

Despite quick back-to-back goals by the Golden Eagles, the Blue Jays led 7-6 at the half.

The Golden Eagles then struck first in the second half to tie the game at seven. The game stayed tied for about 90 seconds until Kenul found Hopkins freshman attacker Maggie Schneidreith open on the right post. Kenul then converted a free position shot to give the Jays a two point lead on the Eagles.

With just over two minutes to play, the Jays led by three. However after a save by Hopkins senior goalie Caroline Federico, the Golden Eagles won the draw and found the cage to cut the lead to two. Thankfully the Jays got the final draw of the game and were able to run off the ball to claim the victory.

Kenul, who had her 96th career point against the Golden Eagles explained what she thinks accounts for the Jays' successful start to the season.

"I think that one of the biggest things contributing to our success this season is our team chemistry," said Kenul. "We work really well together and are able to have a lot of different people contribute."

Up next, the Blue Jays will return to Homewood Field, after playing their first three games on the road, and Hopkins will host the University of Pennsylvania this Saturday, Feb. 25.

that was on the edge of their seats, Tinney pulled off another hidden ball trick.

He completely fooled the Loyola defense and buried the game-winning shot for the Blue Jays, sending the crowd in a frenzy and causing the Hopkins fans to truly go bananas.

The victory puts Hopkins at 3-0 on the season while Loyola falls to 0-2.

The Blue Jays will be heading down to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this Saturday, Feb. 25 to take on the defending national champions, the Tar Heels.

By **GAURAV VERMA**
Sports Editor

The Hopkins wrestling team has had a rocky season this winter, with a number of key competitors like senior Alex McLaughlin and sophomore Isaac Morales, who placed second and third respectively in their weight class last season, suffering from injuries.

While the Jays only placed seventh overall in the Centennial Conference

Championship, senior captain Jared Forman gave an outstanding performance for the Jays. The Oceanside, Calif. native came into the tournament as the defending champion in the 174-pound weight class.

This year Forman did not disappoint, defeating three opponents, including one by pin, en route to a second Centennial Conference Championship title.

The title makes Forman only the sixth wrestler in Hopkins history to win multiple Conference championships. Even more impressive is the fact that it was his third appearance in the championship round in his weight class. For his accomplishments, *The News-Letter* has decided to recognize Forman as our Athlete of the Week. He was kind enough to answer some of our questions.

The News-Letter:
What do you think are the key responsibilities of being a captain of the wrestling team?

Jared Forman: There are a few key responsibilities to being the captain of the wrestling team. First and foremost is to

make sure everyone on the team is focused and mentally prepared for competition.

While I can only control my area of the wrestling room, I can attempt to do much more to control the culture. The second responsibility is working with the coaches and communicating with them properly. Finally, while wrestling is an individual sport, I feel invested in the success of my teammates, as I truly see it as a team effort.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Jared Forman
Year: Senior
Sport: Wrestling
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Oceanside, Calif.
High School: Rancho Buena Vista

aways from the season have been?

JF: The injuries this year have been tough. It has made it difficult at times to keep morale high when people keep coming in and out of the room.

An important takeaway from the season is making sure to listen to your body and take time to recover.

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement and grind of the season and not take the important days to relax and let your body heal. That comes with the territory though; Wrestlers have a reputation of working through injuries.

N-L: Going into the NCAA Championships, what do you think are some things that the team will need to work on to turn out a strong performance?

JF: Going into the postseason, I feel the biggest thing for the team is to believe in ourselves. The work has been done, there is not much one can do in the last week

before competition. At this point, we just need to trust our training and truly believe that our goals are possible.

Personally I believe in all of my teammates, probably a little too much to be honest, and I believe that I will achieve my goals. With the right attitude and right focus, I think we will have a strong performance at the Regional and the NCAA tournaments.

N-L: What do you think has been key to your growth from being a freshman on the team four years ago, to now being a captain and Conference champion?

JF: There are three main aspects to how I approach wrestling that I personally feel have led to my growth. The first is confidence and optimism. Throughout my four years, even when things were not looking good, I kept my head up and kept moving forward. This has allowed me to improve consistently.

The second was being coachable: I listen to my coaches and trust what they say. Coach Norris and Coach Kraus have been with me all four years now and always help me to improve. This also extends to my teammates; I listen to what they have to say and how they think I can improve. I think the only way to develop as a wrestler and as a person is to listen to everyone around you, take all opinions into account and then analyze the situation.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, is believing. It is simply amazing how much better you perform when you believe something is possible. I have never counted myself out, and I think that has been a big part of my success up to this point.

N-L: As your collegiate wrestling career comes to an end, what are the lessons that you will learned that you will

take with you to life off the mat?

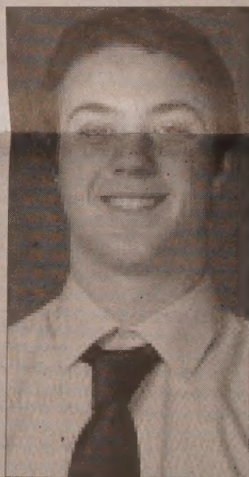
JF: This one is always a hard question. A couple of lessons I have mentioned in the previous questions, but the biggest one that I have not mentioned is the simple lesson that hard work pays off.

The more time you put into wrestling, the better you become at it. Talent is a factor for a lot of wrestlers, but I attribute all of my successes on the mat to my work ethic.

This work ethic has also given me the opportunity to attend such a prestigious university and keep up with my studies. That, I think, is the biggest lesson I have learned.

To mention some others: I have learned to believe in myself and the people around me, I have learned to listen to all points of view and use them to my advantage, I have learned to focus on what is in my control and not let the things that are outside of my control distract me. Finally, I have learned that proper rest and recovery is important for both the body and the mind.

My collegiate wrestling career may be coming to a close in the next month, but I will always be a wrestler because of these lessons I have learned.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Jared Forman.

M. Basketball falters going into Conference playoffs

By **GREGORY MELICK**
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's basketball team finished up their regular season with games against the Washington College Shoremen and the Haverford College Fords, the two bottom teams in the Centennial Conference.

The two teams entered the week 3-13 and 2-14 respectively in Conference play, so it seemed like it would be an easy week for the Blue Jays.

In the first game, Hopkins took care of the Shoremen handily, winning 84-65, led by their defense, which held the Shoremen to 36.7 percent from the field and 20 percent from the three-point line.

On offense they were led by graduate forward Sam Gordon, who recorded his fifth double-double of the year, scoring 13 points and pulling down 12 rebounds. Sophomore guard Michael Gardner set a career high, scoring 20 points on 8-10 shooting from the field.

The trouble came in

the Jays' second game of the week against the Haverford College Fords. It was senior night for Hopkins, since it was their last regular season home game. Hopkins was hoping to send their senior class out with a bang, but Haverford came out to play and ruined the night for the Hopkins senior class.

The Hopkins starting lineup full of seniors started out strong, jumping out to a quick 10-4 lead, but Haverford would battle back, responding with a 9-0 run to go up 13-10 six minutes into the first half. The teams stayed close for the rest of the half, as neither team was able to grab momentum, and the half ended with the score level at 41 apiece.

The second half was more of the same, as the biggest lead for either team was four points. In the end, the Fords rode the back of freshman forward Jonathan Lang, who came into the game averaging only seven points per game.

He ended the game with a career high 25 points on 10-13 shooting, including 4-6 shooting

from three. His three-pointer with one minute left put Haverford up by four and would eventually be the winning shot.

Hopkins would eventually lose the game 80-78 after Gardner missed a potential game-tying shot with one second left. Despite that miss, Gardner scored 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

He was helped by junior forward Kyle Doran, who scored 20 points of his own and senior forward Ryan Curran, who had 15 points and 6 rebounds. One of the biggest deficiencies for the Jays was shooting from the free throw line, where they shot 40.9 percent as a team.

"Haverford came in with nothing to lose and shot the lights out," Curran said. "Their penetration hurt us, which led to kick-outs for open shots."

In addition to Lang, the Fords got 21 points from sophomore guard Kahlil Barnes, and as a team shot 50 percent from the field.

As result of the loss, the Blue Jays were pushed down to the

fourth seed in the Centennial Conference tournament. This means that they play the fifth seeded Ursinus College Bears at home on Wednesday.

In the two previous matchups of the two teams, the Blue Jays won both, but only by a combined total of five points.

"It's all going to come down to execution and getting the ball to the right guy at the right time," Gardner said.

If Hopkins can win that game, they will move on to face Swarthmore, a team the Blue Jays beat by 12 at home but lost to by 22 when they played on the road. The game at Swarthmore was closer than the score indicated, as Swarthmore went on a 20 point run in the second half to take control of the game.

"At this point it's all about locking in and focusing on one game at a time," Curran said. "We can't look down the road or worry about anything else."

Even though the Blue Jays ended their regular season on a sour note, they can turn it all around with a strong showing in the playoffs.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Junior Matt Fischetti was named the Centennial Conference Track Athlete of the Week after winning the high jump with a score of 1.80 meters at the Keogh Invitational.

CALENDAR

Saturday:
Wrestling @ NCAA East Regionals
Baseball vs. St. John Fisher;
11:30 a.m.
M. lax @ North Carolina; 1 p.m.
W. lax vs. UPenn; 1 p.m.
Sunday:
Track: Centennial Championships

College basketball's best get set for March



Daniel Landy
DanLand

Get hyped! March begins in less than a week, which means that March Madness and all of the anticipation that comes with basketball's most exciting month is also right around the corner. The storied programs of the nation's powerhouse conferences make their presences felt year after year, while the lower seeded mid-major teams try to write their own pages in the history books.

Last year's tournament was one for the ages, with the Villanova University Wildcats' sensational victory in the final over the University of North Carolina Tar Heels serving as the icing on the cake.

But before people start filling out their brackets, choosing their 12 seed over five seed upsets and picking a team from a Conference they have never heard of to reach the Final Four, there is the drama surrounding which teams will actually see their names on the bracket and how they will be seeded.

Atop the polls are the Gonzaga Bulldogs, who will

Villanova is the gold standard of the Big East Conference.

more than likely put the finishing touches on an undefeated regular season this week and enter the West Coast Conference (WCC) Tournament with an unblemished record. Barring a catastrophic meltdown in the WCC Tournament, the Gonzaga Bulldogs will enter the NCAA tournament as a number one seed for the second time in five years.

But are the mid-major Gonzaga Bulldogs actually legitimate title contenders? Both its recent history and its performance this season suggest that Gonzaga is for real. The Gonzaga Bulldogs are no ordinary mid-major team, as they have in fact reached the tournament every year since 1999, a streak currently only dwarfed by three college basketball powerhouses — University of Kansas, Duke University and Michigan State University.

This year, they have picked up impressive victories over the likes of the University of Florida, the University of Arizona and twice over Saint Mary's College of California.

Whether Gonzaga can actually translate its experience and talent into a national championship remains to be seen, but the team that coach Mark Few has assembled this year is as good a bet as any to bring home the trophy.

Villanova is the gold standard of the Big East

Conference and is right alongside Gonzaga as another likely number one seed. The Wildcats showed no signs of a post-title hangover following their championship in 2016. They have suffered only two losses — both on the road against quality opponents — while picking up numerous convincing victories along the way.

With most of its core intact from last season, the Wildcats are candidates to return to the Final Four and win another title. Beyond Villanova, the Creighton University Bluejays and the Butler University Bulldogs are the other Big East teams capable of making a deep tournament run.

Creighton's chances took a major hit when they lost Maurice Watson Jr., the NCAA's leader in assists, to a torn ACL in mid-January. The Bluejays have played well since losing Watson just over a month ago; However, come tournament time, the absence of such a skillful playmaker will undoubtedly hurt their chances.

Butler, on the other hand, is a healthy team that has played well throughout the season. The Butler Bulldogs are currently in the four or five seed range, which would position them nicely to make some noise in the tournament.

The Big 12 Conference is much like the Big East this year; The Conference has a perennial powerhouse, in the Big 12's case, Kansas, followed by several other legitimate title contenders, such as the West Virginia University Mountaineers and the Baylor University Bears.

The Kansas Jayhawks are another team that have already all but clinched their spot as a number one seed. Of course, this is nothing new to the Jayhawks, who will set the NCAA record for the most consecutive tournament appearances at 28 this March and are on track to win the Big 12 regular season title for the 13th consecutive season.

Led by senior Frank Mason III, Kansas is playing as well as ever. One of only three Kansas losses came against West Virginia, who has its fair share of impressive victories, but also has several inexcusable losses to subpar teams.

When the Mountaineers are playing at their best, as they were when they beat Kansas on the road, they are as good as any team in the country; Their key down the stretch will be to play well consistently.

The same can be said of Baylor, who is 0-3 against Kansas and West Virginia, but has beaten the University of Oregon Ducks and the University of Louisville Cardinals. The key for the Bears will be dominating inside, as the tandem of big men Johnathan Motley and Jo Lualaba Jr. is

SEE NCAA, B10

W. fencing parry their way to EWFC title



The Hopkins women's fencing team claimed the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference (EWFC) title for the sixth time in program history over the weekend. The Blue Jays also became the winningest team in program history, and their 23 victories this season are four more than the prior mark set by a fencing squad. Senior Katherine Couch recorded her 278th career victory and once again earned First Team All-EWFC honors. The Jays also won top EWFC coaching staff, Epee and Saber squad honors.

B10

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M. Basketball downed on senior day

The men's basketball team lost a close game to the Haverford Fords over the weekend, but the team still enters the Centennial Conference Tournament as the fourth seed.

PAGE B11

NBA: DeMarcus Cousins on the move

DeMarcus Cousins was dealt from the Sacramento Kings to the New Orleans Pelicans, and Andrew Johnson argues that it signals a rebirth of the NBA big man.

PAGE B10

AOTW: Jared Forman

This week, *The News-Letter* honors senior Jared Forman, who capped off his wrestling career with a win in the Centennial Championships.

PAGE B11

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M. Lax vanquishes Loyola in instant classic

By BRANDON WOLFE
For The News-Letter

Here's a fun fact: Blue Jays are aggressive and territorial. Here's another fun fact: Greyhounds are considered by many to be among the top 10 most gentle dog breeds.

This past Saturday, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team proved both of these fun facts to be true as the Blue Jays defeated the Loyola University Maryland Greyhounds in a riveting top 10 battle in front of a packed Homewood Field crowd of 5,222.

Hopkins faced an uphill climb early on in the newest rendition of the Charles Street Rivalry, as the Greyhounds offense quickly put in four goals to take a quick 4-1 lead just 11 minutes into the game.

Nevertheless, the Jays quickly answered the call with a goal apiece by graduate student Craig Madarasz, junior Shack Stanwick and senior John Crawley to tie up the game before a goal by Loyola senior Graham Savio put them back in the lead heading into the second quarter.

The second quarter of the contest proved to be

a more defensive battle, as sophomore Kyle Marr and junior Patrick Fraser notched goals for the Jays to answer the goal from the Greyhounds and leveled the game at a 6-6 tie. Loyola's offense caught fire near the end of the half, firing two into the back of the net in the final 2:39 to take an 8-6 lead into the locker room.

Both Hopkins and Loyola came out hot, each netting in a goal at the beginning of the second half. The Greyhounds pulled ahead, putting another in the back of the net to increase their lead to 10-7.

The Jays were not fazed, however, as Stanwick scored another goal soon after to shorten Loyola's lead to two. This would kick off a 7-3 game-ending run in favor of the home Hopkins team.

Stanwick would also go on to score two more goals, bringing his goal total to four and tying his career high along with notching an assist for an impressive five-point showing. This also improved Stanwick's point streak to 36 straight.

Mike Perkins buried

a goal in for the Greyhounds to put the lead back at three in favor of the visiting Loyola team.

However, only eight minutes deeper into the third quarter, Hopkins rang in four goals to capture their first lead of the day after Stanwick scored his third and fourth goal, and Marr and freshman Forry Smith contributed a goal each.

The lead for the Jays was short lived, though, as Loyola's Alex McGovern tossed in a goal to tie the game back up at 11 apiece before his teammate Brian Sherlock took back the lead for the Hounds 1:21 into the final quarter.

Hopkins senior Wilkins Dismuke answered back four minutes later with a goal that extended his scoring streak to 15 games and tied the game at 12 apiece.

However, Sherlock buried another goal that gave Loyola what would prove to be their last lead of the game. A jaw dropping save by Hopkins graduate student goalie Gerald Logan and a forced turnover by the Jays gave them just the opportunity they needed to force overtime.

With just seconds left in regulation, Smith batted in a blocked shot by

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Women's lacrosse shoots down Golden Eagles

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team is showing early signs of greatness after its first two games of the 2017 season. The Jays dominated their season opener against the American University, running away with an 18-6 win over the Eagles. This past Saturday, the Jays managed to hold off Marquette University to pick up another early win.

The Jays proved to be a dynamic team from the start, with nine different scorers contributing to the win against American University. Leading the Jays was junior attacker Emily Kenul, who had a game and career high of five goals.

From the start, the Jays were in control of the game.

In the first 22 minutes of play, Hopkins would score the first six goals of the game, not allowing a single Eagle goal until 7:37 minutes left in the half.

Kenul would close out the first half of the game with her fourth goal of the day. The Jays headed to the locker room ahead 9-1.

Although the Jays allowed five more American goals in the second half, their offense did not slow down one bit. Hopkins managed to double their score in the second half of play, adding nine more goals to close with the 18-6 win.

Accompanying Kenul on the scoreboard, with impressive performances of their own, were sophomore attackers Nicole DeMase and Miranda Ibello. DeMase accomplished

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Senior Wilkins Dismuke and sophomore Kyle Marr celebrate the win.

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